The
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THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

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Jonathan Wild going to the Place of Execution.

THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

BEING

CAPTAIN CHARLES JOHNSON'S *General History of the Lives and Adventures of the Most Famous Highwaymen, Murderers, Street-Robbers and Account of the Voyages and Plunders of the Most Notorious Pyrates*, 1734; CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SMITH'S *Compleat History of the Lives and Robberies of the Most Notorious Highwaymen, Foot-Pads, Shop-Lifts and Cheats*, 1719; *The Tyburn Chronicle*, 1768; *The Malefactors' Register*, 1796; GEORGE BORROW'S *Celebrated Trials*, 1825; *The Newgate Calendar*, by ANDREW KNAPP AND WILLIAM BALDWIN, 1826; CAMDEN PELHAM'S *Chronicles of Crime*, 1841; etc.

COLLATED AND EDITED
BY
G. T. CROOK

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CONTENTS

PAGE

JOHN PLACKETT 1
Executed on the City Road, London, 28th of July, 1762, for robbing a Danish gentleman, whom he treated with great barbarity.

PETER ANNET 3
Convicted and pilloried for blaspheming, in Michaelmas Term, 1762.

JAMES FARR, WILLIAM SPARRY AND WILLIAM BIDDLE 3
Executed at Tyburn, 10th of November, 1762, for forging a will.

DANIEL BLAKE 4
Executed for the murder of John Murcott, butler to Lord Dacre, 28th of February, 1763.

WILLIAM HARROW 6
The flying highwayman, executed at Hertford, on the 28th of March, 1763.

ANN BEDDINGFIELD AND RICHARD RINGE . . 8
The woman burned for the murder of her husband, and the man hanged for being her accomplice, near Ipswich, 8th of April, 1763.

JOHN RICE 11
A city stockbroker, executed at Tyburn, 4th of May, 1763, for forgery.

PAUL LEWIS 14
An officer of the Royal Navy, who became a highwayman, and was executed at Tyburn, 4th of May, 1763.

HANNAH DAGOE 16
Sentenced to death for robbing a poor woman. She struggled violently with the executioner on the scaffold, 4th of May, 1763.

THOMAS WATKINS 17
Executed in the market-place of Windsor, 7th of March, 1764, for murder.

CONTENTS

PAGE

WILLIAM CORBETT 18
An American, executed at Tyburn, 4th of April, 1764, for the murder of his landlord and his family.

JOHN WESKET AND JOHN COOPER 20
The former was executed at Tyburn, 9th of January, 1765, for robbing his master, the Earl of Harrington; and the latter transported for fourteen years for receiving stolen goods.

BARNEY CARROL AND WILLIAM KING . . . 23
Convicted under the Coventry Act for cutting and maiming, and executed at Tyburn, 31st of July, 1765.

JOHN CROUCH AND WIFE 25
Convicted for offering to sell, on the Royal Exchange, a young girl, 12th of May, 1766.

THE COUNTESS OF BRISTOL OTHERWISE THE DUCHESS OF KINGSTON 26
Whose trial for bigamy, at Westminster Hall, was attended by the Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

SAMUEL ORTON 41
Clerk to the Court of Requests, executed 14th of January, 1767, for forging two letters of attorney, in the name of Captain Bishop, by means of which he received one thousand pounds from the Bank of England.

JOHN WILLIAMSON 44
A deliberate and cruel murderer, who tortured and starved his wife to death. Executed in Moorfields, 19th of January, 1767.

ELIZABETH BROWNRIGG 46
Executed at Tyburn, 14th of September, 1767, for torturing her female apprentices to death.

WILLIAM GUEST 50
Executed at Tyburn, 14th of October, 1767, for high treason, in diminishing the current coin of the realm.

JAMES SAMPSON 51
A treacherous and base villain, executed at Tyburn, 11th of March, 1768, for robbing and setting fire to his benefactor's house.

JOHN WILKES, ESQ., M.P. 54
Whose arrest and conviction for writing seditious and blasphemous pamphlets led to riots in London in 1768.

CONTENTS

PAGE

JAMES GIBSON 58
A gentleman, executed at Tyburn, 23rd of March, 1768, for forgery on the Bank of England.

SARAH METYARD AND SARAH MORGAN METYARD, HER DAUGHTER 59
Executed at Tyburn, 19th of July, 1768, for the cruel murders of parish apprentices.

ELIZABETH RICHARDSON 63
Executed at Tyburn, 21st of December, 1768, for murdering an attorney-at-law, in Symond's Inn, Chancery Lane.

JAMES ATTAWAY AND RICHARD BAILEY . . . 64
Executed at Tyburn, 4th of July, 1770, for committing a burglary after tying up the butler.

PETER CONWAY AND MICHAEL RICHARDSON . 66
Executed at Tyburn, 19th of July, 1770, for a murder which was their first essay in crime.

PETER M'CLOUD 68
Hanged for housebreaking, on 27th of May, 1771, before he had attained the age of sixteen.

JOHN EYRE, ESQ. 70
Transported, 23rd of November, 1771, for stealing paper out of the Guildhall of the City of London.

DR LEVI WEIL, ASHER WEIL, JACOB LAZARUS AND SOLOMON PORTER 71
A gang of robbers who committed murder, and were executed at Tyburn, 9th of December, 1771.

HENRY JONES, FRANCIS PHOENIX AND CHARLES BURTON 74
Executed at Tyburn, 3rd of February, 1772, for burglary at the house of Sir Robert Ladbroke, a City banker.

JAMES BOLLAND 77
A sheriff officer, and a most unconscionable villain, executed at Tyburn, 18th of March, 1772, for forgery.

JONATHAN BRITAIN 86
A plausible rascal, who was executed at Bristol, 15th of May, 1772, for forgery.

WILLIAM GRIFFITHS 89
Executed at Tyburn, 20th of January, 1773, for a highway robbery.

CONTENTS

PAGE

GEORGE BARRINGTON 91
A well-dressed pickpocket who "worked" in churches and the Houses of Parliament, and was convicted on 15th of March, 1773.

WILLIAM FIELD *ALIAS* GREEN 93
Executed on Kennington Common, 1st of September, 1773, for highway robbery.

WILLIAM COX 95
Who played marbles and kept a pet sparrow to aid him in the commission of robberies. Executed at Tyburn, 27th of October, 1773.

ELIZABETH HARRIET GREEVE 97
A clever swindler, transported for felony, in the year 1773.

JOHN RANN 99
Commonly called "Sixteen-String Jack." Executed at Tyburn, 30th of November, 1774, for highway robbery.

AMOS MERRITT 102
Having saved an innocent man from the gallows, he himself was executed at Tyburn, 10th of January, 1775, for burglary.

LAMBERT READING 103
Hackney-coachman and leader of a gang of robbers, executed at Chelmsford, 10th of August, 1775, for burglary.

DANIEL AND ROBERT PERREAU 104
Twin brothers, who, though popularly believed to be innocent, were executed at Tyburn, 17th of January, 1776, for forgery.

PETER LE MAITRE 107
Convicted, 7th of March, 1777, of robbing the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

JAMES HILL 108
Commonly called "John the Painter," an incendiary, who aimed at the destruction of the nation. Executed at Portsmouth, 10th of March, 1777.

JOSEPH ARMSTRONG 111
Convicted of murder, but cheated the gallows by hanging himself, 17th of March, 1777.

DAVID BROWN DIGNUM 112
Convicted, 5th of April, 1777, of fraudulently pretending to sell places under Government, and sentenced to hard labour on the Thames.

CONTENTS

PAGE

ANN MARROW 113
Pilloried at Charing Cross, 22nd of July, 1777, for marrying three women.

DR WILLIAM DODD 114
Doctor of Divinity, Prebendary of Brecon, Chaplain-in-Ordinary to his Majesty, and minister to the Magdalen Hospital. Executed at Tyburn, 27th of June, 1777, for forgery.

JOHN HARRISON 119
An assurance corporation accountant, who was convicted of forgery in 1777, but afterwards received his Majesty's pardon.

FRANCIS MERCIER OTHERWISE LOUIS DE BUTTE . 123
Executed in Prince's Street, opposite Swallow Street, in the city of Westminster, 8th of December, 1777, for murder.

JOHN HOLMES AND PETER WILLIAMS . . 125
Publicly whipped, by the sentence of the Middlesex Court of Quarter Sessions, for December, 1777, for stealing dead bodies.

JAMES ELLIOT 126
Executed at Maidstone, in March, 1778, for a forgery on the Bank of England, attended with circumstances which were left to the twelve judges for determination.

GEORGE ROACH, ROBERT ELLIOT AND JONAS PARKER . 128
Who were convicted, the first two of stealing, and the other of receiving part of a lead coffin from Aldermanbury church, in 1778.

ALEXANDER SCOTT 130
City of London hoaxed by a false proclamation of war, April, 1778.

THOMAS HORNER AND JAMES FRYER . . 132
Executed for burglary and robbery under threats of violence, 24th of June, 1778.

FRANCIS LEWIS OTHERWISE GRIMISON . . 133
Cobweb as a clue to a bogus burglary committed by a butler, who was executed at Tyburn, 24th of June, 1778.

JAMES DONALLY 136
A blackmailer, who was convicted of highway robbery, 22nd of February, 1779.

THE REV. JAMES HACKMAN 139
Executed at Tyburn, 19th of April, 1779, for murdering Miss Reay outside Covent Garden Theatre.

CONTENTS

PAGE

JAMES MATHISON 141
Who forged bank-notes so cleverly that they could not be distinguished from genuine ones. Executed at Tyburn, 28th of July, 1779.

A. DURNFORD AND W. NEWTON 143
Executed at Tyburn, 22nd of November, 1780, for a robbery under singular circumstances.

LORD GEORGE GORDON AND OTHERS . . 144
An account of the riots in London in 1780.

JOHN DONELLAN, ESQ. 148
Executed for the murder of Sir Theodosius Boughton, Bart., his brother-in-law, 2nd of April, 1781.

FRANCIS HENRY DE LA MOTTE 153
A French spy, who was executed at Tyburn, 27th of July, 1781, for high treason.

WILLIAM WYNNE RYLAND 156
Engraver to his Majesty. Executed at Tyburn, in August, 1783, for forging a bill of exchange.

RICHARD CARPENTER 158
Convicted at the Lent Assizes, 1785, Hampshire, and executed at Winchester.

CHARLES PRICE 159
A notorious swindler and bank-note forger, who committed suicide in 1786.

MICHAEL WALKER, RICHARD PAYNE AND ROBERT COX 164
Executed opposite Smart's Buildings, Holborn, London, 18th of December, 1786, for murder.

JOHN ELLIOT, M.D. 165
Acquitted of a serious crime, he killed himself by hunger-striking because of a vindictive sentence for a minor offence.

HENRY STERNE 168
Commonly called "Gentleman Harry." Convicted of stealing the Duke of Beaufort's pendant, 1787.

THOMAS DENTON 170
His misapplied talents led to his downfall, and he was executed before Newgate, 1st of July, 1789, for making base coin.

THOMAS GORDON 173
Executed at Northampton, 17th of August, 1789, for a murder ordered by his mother.

CONTENTS

PAGE

THOMAS PHIPPS, ESQ., AND THOMAS PHIPPS, HIS SON. 174
Executed for a forgery committed by the younger man, who exonerated his father, 5th of September, 1789.

SAMUEL HINCHCLIFFE 175
Convicted at the Westminster Sessions in January, 1790. Imprisoned and publicly whipped for a fraudulent trick.

JOHN DYER 177
A Westminster schoolboy, executed at Newgate, 5th of August, 1790, for forgery.

EDWARD LOWE AND WILLIAM JOBBINS . . 178
Young incendiaries, who set fire to a house in order to plunder it, and were executed in the City, 20th of November, 1790.

RENWICK WILLIAMS 180
Commonly called "The Monster." Convicted 13th of December, 1790, of a brutal and wanton assault on Miss Ann Porter.

JOHN BELVILLE 183
Convicted at the Old Bailey, 16th of February, 1791, for a robbery from "the dwelling-house of her Majesty, called Buckingham House."

BARTHOLOMEW QUAILN 184
Executed, after a great legal argument, on 7th of March, 1791, in the Isle of Ely, for the murder of his wife.

JOSEPH WOOD AND THOMAS UNDERWOOD . . 187
Two fourteen-year-old boys, executed at Newgate, 6th of July, 1791, for robbing another boy.

JOSEPH LORRISON 187
Known among thieves as "Jumping Joe." Executed on Kennington Common, 8th of August, 1792, for robbery on the highway.

THE REV. RICHARD BURGH, JOHN CUMMINGS, ESQ., CAPTAIN IN THE ARMY, TOWNLEY M'CAN, ESQ., STUDENT OF LAW, JAMES DAVIS AND JOHN BOURNE 188
Convicted of a conspiracy to set fire to the King's Bench Prison, February, 1793.

THE REV. MR JACKSON 192
Convicted of treason, in Dublin, 23rd of April, 1793, but died of poison at the bar of the court, at the moment death would have been pronounced upon him.

CONTENTS

PAGE

LAURENCE JONES 195
A notorious swindler, sentenced to death in 1793, but who hanged himself three days before the date of his execution.

ELIZABETH MARSH 197
A fifteen-year-old girl, executed for the murder of her grandfather, March, 1794.

HENRY GOODIFF 198
A boy condemned to death for robbing a pieman, who had swindled him on Hounslow Heath, of a few halfpence, March, 1794.

ANNE BROADRIC 199
Indicted for murdering a man who had jilted her for another woman, 17th of July, 1794.

LEWIS JEREMIAH AVERSHAW. 203
Executed on Kennington Common, 3rd of August, 1795, for shooting a peace officer in the act of apprehending him.

KID WAKE 206
Convicted and imprisoned for an assault upon his Majesty, on the 20th of February, 1796.

RICHARD PARKER 207
The chief of the mutineers in the British Fleet. Executed at the yardarm of *L'Espion* man-of-war in 1796, at Sheerness.

WILLIAM LEE 211
Executed before Newgate, 20th of April, 1796, for burglary.

HENRY WESTON 212
Betrayed his employer's confidence, committed forgery, and was executed before Newgate, 6th of July, 1796.

CHARLES SCOLDWELL 214
A sheriff officer, convicted of stealing two ducks, and sentenced on 23rd of July, 1796, to transportation for seven years.

JOHN CLARKE 217
Executed near Bromley, in Kent, 29th of July, 1796, for murdering a dairymaid.

JOSEPH HODGES AND RICHARD PROBIN . . 218
Convicted at the Old Bailey, 1796, of a confidence trick called cross-dropping, and sentenced to transportation.

SARAH PENELOPE STANLEY 221
The female trooper, convicted at the Old Bailey, in October Sessions, 1796, of petty larceny.

CONTENTS

PAGE

JAMES M'KEAN 222
Executed for murder, 25th of January, 1797, at Glasgow.

MARTIN CLENCH AND JAMES MACKLEY . . 223
Believed to be innocent of a charge of murder, they were executed before Newgate, 5th of June, 1797, after the gallows collapsed.

REBECCA HOWARD 225
Executed at Norwich, 27th of August, 1797, for the murder of her illegitimate child.

MARIA THERESA PHIPOE 225
Executed before Newgate, 11th of December, 1797, for murder.

ROBERT LADBROKE TROYT 228
A boy of seventeen, executed before Newgate, 28th of November, 1798, for forgery, his first offence.

JAMES TURNBULL 229
A private soldier, executed before Newgate, 15th of May, 1799, for robbing the Mint.

MARGARET HUGHES. 230
Executed at Canterbury, 24th of July, 1799, for murdering her husband.

JAMES BRODIE 231
A blind man, who was executed in 1800 for the murder of his boy guide.

RICHARD FERGUSON 232
"Galloping Dick," convicted at the Lent Assizes, 1800, at Aylesbury, and executed for a highway robbery.

SARAH LLOYD 237
Convicted of larceny in April, 1800, and executed in spite of extraordinary efforts to get her reprieved.

JAMES HADFIELD 242
Tried for shooting at his Majesty at Drury Lane Theatre, on Thursday, 15th of May, 1800.

THOMAS CHALFONT 244
A post-office sorter, executed before Newgate, 11th of November, 1800, for stealing a bank-note out of a letter.

JAMES RILEY AND ROBERT NUTTS . . . 245
Executed before Newgate, 24th of June, 1801, for highway robbery.

CONTENTS

PAGE

JOSEPH WALL, ESQ. 246
Formerly Governor of Goree. Executed 28th of January, 1802, nearly twenty years after committing the crime, for ordering a soldier to be flogged to death.

HENRY COCK 250
Executed before Newgate, 23rd of June, 1802, for forgery, whereby he swindled his benefactor's estate.

WILLIAM CODLIN 252
Executed 27th of November, 1802, for scuttling a ship, of which he was captain.

GEORGE FOSTER 257
Executed at Newgate, 18th of January, 1803, for the murder of his wife and child, by drowning them in the Paddington Canal; with a curious account of galvanic experiments on his body.

COLONEL EDWARD MARCUS DESPARD, JOHN FRANCIS, JOHN WOOD, THOMAS BROUGHTON, JAMES SEDGWICK WRATTON, ARTHUR GRAHAM AND JOHN MACNAMARA 259
Executed in Horsemonger Lane, Southwark, 21st of February, 1803, for high treason.

JOHN TERRY AND JOSEPH HEALD . . . 267
Executed under extraordinary circumstances at York, 21st of March, 1803, for murder.

CAPTAIN MACNAMARA 270
Who killed Colonel Montgomery in a duel arising out of a quarrel about dogs, and was acquitted on a charge of manslaughter.

ROBERT SMITH 275
Executed before Newgate for robbing coachmen on the highway, 8th of June, 1803.

JOHN HATFIELD 277
"The Keswick Impostor." Executed at Carlisle, 3rd of September, 1803, for forgery; with particulars of the once celebrated "Beauty of Buttermere," a victim to his villainy.

FRANCIS SMITH 283
Condemned to death on 13th of January, 1804, for the murder of the supposed Hammersmith ghost, but pardoned soon afterwards.

CONTENTS

PAGE

ANN HURLE 288
Executed before Newgate, 8th of February, 1804, for forgery, at the age of twenty-two.

ROBERT ASLETT 291
Assistant cashier of the Bank of England. Condemned to death for embezzling Exchequer bills to a large amount, entrusted to his charge, and respited during his Majesty's pleasure, 18th of November, 1804.

RICHARD HAYWOOD 294
A violent and hardened sinner, who was executed along with John Tennant, before Newgate, 30th of April, 1805, for robbery.

HENRY PERFECT 296
A most plausible begging-letter swindler, transported to Botany Bay, in April, 1805.

ELIZABETH BARBER *ALIAS* DALY . . . 297
Who smoked her pipe after murdering a pensioner. Executed near Maidstone, 25th of May, 1805.

WILLIAM CUBITT 299
Executed in November, 1805, for stealing valuable jewellery from the Earl of Mansfield.

THOMAS PICTON, ESQ. 300
Late Governor of Trinidad. Convicted 24th of February, 1806, of applying torture, in order to extort confession from a girl.

RICHARD PATCH 307
Executed on the top of the New Prison, in the borough of Southwark, 8th of April, 1806, for murder, after a trial at which accommodation was provided for the Royal Family.

CHARLES HEMMINGS AND GEORGE BEVAN . . 309
Bogus Bow Street officers who robbed a clergyman, and were executed, April, 1806.

JOHN DOCKE ROUVELETT *ALIAS* ROMNEY . . 310
After maliciously prosecuting a woman he was executed at Ilchester, at the Summer Assizes, 1806, in Somersetshire, for forgery.

JOHN HOLLOWAY AND OWEN HAGGERTY . . 318
A hundred spectators were killed or injured in a crush at the execution of these men before Newgate, 22nd of February, 1807.

CONTENTS

PAGE

JOHN MAYCOCK 328
Executed 23rd of March, 1807, on the top of the New Jail, Horsemonger Lane, Southwark, for the murder of an old lone lady, Mrs Ann Pooley, in company with John Pope, who was admitted evidence for the Crown.

INDEX 333

LIST OF PLATES

Jonathan Wild on his way to the Gallows . . *Frontispiece*

To face page

Elizabeth Brownrigg 47

Dr Dodd and Joseph Harris at the place of execution . . 114

The Rev. James Hackman and Miss Reay . . . 138

Lord George Gordon and the Attack on Newgate . . 144

THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

JOHN PLACKETT

Executed on the City Road, London, 28th of July, 1762, for robbing a Danish Gentleman, whom he treated with great Barbarity

ALL the robberies which we have been able to trace to this man were committed within the circle of a mile of Islington, the place of his birth. He was transported for a burglary near Clerkenwell, which adjoins to Islington—which is in fact a part of that village—and he was executed near the spot where he robbed and so cruelly treated a stranger.

John Plackett was the son of industrious people, living at Islington, who placed him at a charity school, whence he was apprenticed to Mr Pullen, wheelwright, of St John's Street.

He absconded from his master before four years of his apprenticeship were expired, and entered on board a man-of-war. His character as a sailor was unexceptionable; but when the ship was paid off he contracted an acquaintance with a number of dissolute people, and, having soon spent his wages in scenes of riot and dissipation, he commenced as a footpad.

Having subsisted some time by the commission of robberies on the highway, he broke into a house near Hockley-in-the-Hole and stole a quantity of kitchen furniture, for which offence he was tried at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years' transportation. Soon after the expiration of the term of his exile Plackett returned to England, and committed several robberies between Islington and London.

On the 10th of June Plackett was drinking with some

sailors during the greater part of the day, at a public-house in Wapping, and about twelve at night he left them, with an intention of committing robbery.

The same night Mr Fayne, a Norway merchant, was returning from the Danish coffee-house, in Wellclose Square, where he had spent the evening with some friends, to his lodgings in Shadwell, when, losing his way, he inquired of a hackney-coachman the road to Shadwell; but, as he spoke very indifferent English, the man could not understand him, and he presently applied for the same purpose to another hackney-coachman; at which instant Plackett came up and made signs for Mr Fayne to follow him, saying he was going to Limehouse.

They walked together through many streets, and obscure lanes and passages, till they came into the fields, when Mr Fayne observed that they could not be in the right road; but the other pretended not to understand him. They proceeded to the fields near Islington, when Mr Fayne became greatly alarmed, and expressed much uneasiness, for which, indeed, he had sufficient cause, for his treacherous companion, going behind him, struck him a violent blow on the back of his head, which occasioned him to fall to the ground.

The unfortunate gentleman lay for some time in a state of total insensibility; but upon recovering the use of his faculties he found himself entirely naked, and perceived Plackett standing near him, with his clothes and his pocket-book in his hands. In a few minutes Plackett made off with his booty, which, exclusive of his clothes, did not amount to much more than a guinea and a half. Information of the affair was given before Mr Justice Welch, who advertised a reward for apprehending the offender; and in a few days Plackett was taken at his lodgings in Gray's Inn Lane. The shirt that Mr Fayne wore when he was robbed was found in Plackett's room; and the person was traced to whom he had sold the clothes.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, Plackett was sentenced to be hanged, and his body to be hung it chains.

The place appointed for his execution was near the City Road, and when he arrived there he pointed to the spot where he had robbed Mr Fayne, saying his soul was struck with horror when he reflected upon his cruelty to that gentleman. After hanging the usual time the body was cut down and conveyed to Finchley Common, where it was put into irons and hung on a gibbet.

The spot where he suffered was called, for many years afterwards, "Plackett's Common."

PETER ANNET

Convicted and pilloried for Blaspheming, in Michaelmas Term, 1762

PETER ANNET, a deist, upwards of seventy years of age, was indicted in the Court of King's Bench, at Westminster, in 1762, for being the author of divers blasphemous remarks on the five books of Moses.

The charge being fully proved, he was sentenced to be imprisoned one month in Newgate, and within that time to stand twice in and upon the pillory, once at Charing Cross and once at the Royal Exchange; to pay a fine to the King of six shillings and eightpence; then to be sent to Bridewell and kept to hard labour one year, and at the expiration thereof to find securities for his good behaviour during the remainder of his life, himself in one hundred pounds, and the sureties in fifty pounds each.

JAMES FARR, WILLIAM SPARRY AND WILLIAM BIDDLE

Executed at Tyburn, 10*th November*, 1762, *for forging a Will*

AT the sessions of the Old Bailey held on the 22nd of October, 1762, the above prisoners were indicted for forging, and publishing as true, a certain paper instrument, in writing, purporting to be the last will and testament of

Jeffery Henville, late of Charles Street, St James's, tailor, with intent to defraud Anne Ferte, housekeeper to the said Henville, and to whom he had bequeathed his personal estate.

Farr was a relation of the deceased, and a tallow-chandler in the Strand. Sparry was a disgraceful attorney, residing at Greenwich, and son-in-law to Henville; while Biddle was the landlord of the Ship and Anchor tavern, without Temple Bar.

The deceased, Henville, had bequeathed his real estate to the son of Sparry, and it appears the father coveted a share of the testator's personal property, to obtain which he contrived a spurious will in favour of himself and Farr. Biddle was to be rewarded for the iniquitous part he took in the transaction, which was to witness the forged instrument.

The forgery was fully proved upon them, and they accordingly received sentence of death.

On the 10th of November they were conveyed to Tyburn, in order for execution.

They all behaved penitently and with resolution, but decent resignation. Farr fixed the knot of the halter under his left ear, and then exclaimed: "I have but a few moments to stay in this world. I have found it a wicked world—a very wicked world indeed!" The other two malefactors declined to address the populace, and they were immediately launched into eternity.

DANIEL BLAKE

Executed for the Murder of John Murcott, Butler to Lord Dacre, 28th of February, 1763

BLAKE was the son of a butcher at Bunwell, in Norfolk, who brought the youth up to his own business. When he was about twenty years old he became dissatisfied with his trade and travelled to London, with an intention of hiring himself as a gentleman's servant; and he had been but a short time in the metropolis when he was engaged in the service of Lord Dacre.

Having contracted an acquaintance with some women of abandoned character, Blake resolved to support the expenses subsequent thereon by robbing his fellow-servants. He had been in the service of Lord Dacre about ten weeks when he determined to carry his iniquitous plan into execution; and going into the room of Mr Murcott, his lordship's butler, he repeatedly struck him with great violence on the head with a poker, and then, taking a knife from his pocket, cut his throat almost from ear to ear.

After the barbarous murder of Mr Murcott, Blake took twenty guineas from the breeches pocket of the deceased and then returned to his bed. He rose about seven and went about his usual business, and in about an hour he was desired to call Mr Murcott; on which he said he had already called him two or three times, but had not been able to make him answer.

Lord Dacre's bell ringing about nine, the porter went into the chamber of the deceased and repeatedly called him. He then approached the bed and shook Mr Murcott, and, finding him still silent and motionless, exclaimed: "God bless me, I believe he is dead!" He then turned down the bedclothes, which the murderer had thrown over Mr Murcott's face, and, perceiving them bloody, he quitted the room in great terror and communicated his discovery to the housekeeper and Lady Dacre's waiting-maid, who, going into the room, turned the clothes a little farther down and observed a knife, which they supposed to have fallen from the hand of the deceased, and on attempting to move the body the head inclined backwards and gave the wound a most shocking appearance.

Upon the rest of the servants being informed of Mr Murcott's unhappy death, Blake shed tears in great abundance, wrung his hands, and appeared to be affected in so extravagant a degree that he was urged to moderate his affliction, lest the nobleman and his lady should be alarmed.

Mr Murcott's death being communicated to Lord Dacre, he sent for Marsden, clerk to Sir John Fielding, and kept him in the house three days, with the view of discovering

the perpetrator of the horrid fact. During the time that Blake had been in the service of Lord Dacre he was known to have been in very indigent circumstances, but on the day after the murder he was observed to discharge several small debts; and hence arose a suspicion of his guilt. All the servants in the family being strictly examined, in the presence of Lord Dacre, the porter declared that he firmly believed that the knife found in the bed belonged to Blake. Being taken into custody, and conducted to Sir John Fielding's, he voluntarily acknowledged himself guilty of the horrid fact, and was committed to Newgate, in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey he was put on his trial; and, his own confession being corroborated by very strong circumstantial evidence, he was found guilty, and sentenced to be executed.

While he was in Newgate he proved that he had but very imperfect ideas of his duty towards the Almighty, and confessed that he had not read a chapter in the Bible, or attended to any other religious book, since leaving school. While he was under sentence of death his behaviour was decent and penitential, and the day before his execution he said his mind was perfectly calm.

WILLIAM HARROW

The Flying Highwayman, executed at Hertford, 28th of March, 1763

THIS malefactor may be said to have galloped to his fate over the beaten road. He commenced his career in idleness, the parent vice; then he became dexterous at throwing at cocks and cock-fighting. These cruel and infamous acquirements led to robberies, adultery, and every other deadly sin. He had likewise a propensity to poaching. The gamekeeper of a gentleman near Hatfield having detected him in a fact of this kind, Harrow threatened his destruction; the consequence of which was that he was lodged in Hertford Jail; but before the time of holding the

Quarter Sessions he broke out, and made his escape. Thereupon a reward of fifty pounds was offered for taking him into custody. Made desperate by this circumstance, he took to robbing on the highway, and the depredations he made were very numerous. He obtained the name of the "Flying Highwayman," by his horse's leaping the several turnpikes, so that he constantly escaped detection. His career in villainy was, however, happily but short. He laid a scheme for committing a burglary and robbery, for which he and two of his associates forfeited their lives. In company with Thomas Jones, a noted travelling rat-catcher, William Bosford, and another desperate villain, he went to the house of an old farmer, named Thomas Glasscock, who had, by a very extraordinary degree of parsimony, accumulated a very considerable sum, of which these abandoned men determined to rob him, under the pretence of being peace officers who had come to apprehend some deserters. The old gentleman refused them admittance; on which they forced their way through the window and, binding Mr Glasscock and his housekeeper, searched the house, and found a tea-chest which contained three hundred pounds, which they seized and departed.

Having divided the booty, they separated; and Harrow, taking a girl with him as a companion, travelled into Gloucestershire, and put up at an ale-house in a small village, and, assuming the character of a sailor who had brought home prize-money to a considerable amount, he continued there for two months without any suspicion arising. At length a quarrel happened between some of the customers of the house and Harrow, when a scuffle ensued, and, a pistol in one of Harrow's pockets going off, a suspicion arose that he was a highwayman, on which he was carried before a magistrate for examination.

Nothing like proof arising to incriminate him, he was dismissed; but thinking it not prudent to remain any longer he set out with his girl, but did not tell anyone the road that he intended to travel. Very near to the time that he departed, one of the magistrates of Gloucestershire received

a letter from Sir John Fielding, requesting that he would order a search for one William Harrow, who stood charged with having committed a variety of robberies in the neighbourhood of St Albans. Thereupon the magistrates sent some persons in pursuit of him, and, having taken him into custody, he was conducted to prison at Gloucester. By a writ of habeas corpus he was removed to Hertford, where he lay till the assizes, when he was indicted for robbing Mr Glasscock, and being convicted on the clearest evidence was sentenced to die.

On the night before his execution he sawed off his irons, with an intent to make his escape, but he had not quite time enough to effect his purpose. When the jailer came in the morning, he said he would have saved the hangman his trouble if he had not come so soon, and threw at him the irons, which he had by this time got from his legs. Before he was put in the cart a sermon was preached on the occasion of his fatal exit.

ANN BEDDINGFIELD AND RICHARD RINGE

The Woman burned for the Murder of her Husband, and the Man hanged for being her Accomplice, near Ipswich, 8th of April, 1763

JOHN BEDDINGFIELD, the husband of the murderess, was the son of respectable parents, at Sternfield, in Suffolk, and having married when he was about twenty-four years of age, the young couple were placed in a good farm, which was carefully attended by Beddingfield, who bore the character of a man of industry and integrity. They had two children.

Richard Ringe, a youth of nineteen, was engaged in the service of Mr Beddingfield; nor had he been long in the house before his mistress became so enamoured of him that her husband was the object of her contempt. Her behaviour to Ringe was such that he could not long doubt of her

favourable inclinations; nor had he virtue to resist the temptation.

At length Mrs Beddingfield, having formed the horrid design of destroying her husband, communicated her intention to Ringe, who hesitated on the dreadful proposal, nor did he consent till she had promised that he should share her fortune as the reward of the deed.

Mrs Beddingfield, blinded by her passion, was now so much off her guard as to say very indiscreet things to her servants, which led them to presume she had determined on the most deliberate wickedness; of which the following is given as one instance. As she was dressing herself one morning she said to her maid-servant: "Help me to put on my ear-rings; but I shall not wear them much longer, for I shall have new black ones. It will not be long before somebody in the house dies, and I believe it will be your master."

Extravagant as this declaration was, the behaviour of Ringe was not at all more prudent. He purchased some poison, and told one of the servant-maids that he would be her constant friend if she would mix it with some rum-and-milk that her master drank in the morning. But the girl declined having any concern in so horrid a transaction; nor did she take any notice of the proposal that had been made till after the commission of the murder.

Mr Beddingfield happening to be indisposed, it was recommended to him to take a vomit, and the water which the servant-maid brought him to drink proving to be too hot, Ringe was directed to bring some cold water to mix with it, and he took this opportunity of putting arsenic into the water; but Beddingfield, observing a white sediment in the basin, would not drink, though no suspicion of the liquor being poisoned had occurred to him.

Henceforward the intentional murderers resolved not to think of having recourse to poison, but devised another scheme of dispatching the unfortunate object of their vengeance. Mr Beddingfield having been selling some cattle to another farmer, they drank a sociable glass together, but

not to such a degree as to occasion intoxication. When Mr Beddingfield came home he found that his wife was in bed with one of the maid-servants, on which he desired her to come to his chamber; but this she refused, and mutual recriminations passed between them. It had been determined by Ringe to commit the murder on that night, while his master was asleep; whereupon, when he knew he was in bed, he quitted his own room, passed through that in which his mistress slept, and went to the bedchamber of his master.

Ringe, observing that Mr Beddingfield was asleep, threw a cord round his neck to strangle him; but, being hurt by the weight of Ringe lying across him, he struggled, so that they both fell off the bed together. However, the horrid deed of murder was soon perpetrated.

Mrs Beddingfield, being asleep in the next room, was awakened by the noise, and in her fright awakened the servant. At this instant Ringe entered the room and said: "I have done for him." To which the wife answered: "Then I am easy." The girl was greatly alarmed, and cried out: "Master!"—supposing Mr Beddingfield was present, for there was no light in the room; but Mrs Beddingfield commanded her to be silent.

A messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr Beddingfield's parents, who proposed to send for a surgeon; but the wife insisted that it was unnecessary to send for a doctor, as her husband was already dead. On the following day the coroner's jury took an inquisition into the cause of his death; but so superficial was the inquiry that it lasted only a few minutes, and their determination was that he died a natural death.

The guilty commerce between the murderers now became still more evident than before; but so fickle was Mrs Beddingfield's disposition that in a few weeks she began to despise the man whom she had excited to the murder of her husband. The servant-maid now resolved to discover the fact, but postponed the doing so till she had received the wages for her quarter's service. When her mistress had paid her, she went to her parents and discovered all she

knew of the matter; on which a warrant was issued for apprehending the murderers.

At the Lent Assizes in 1763 the prisoners were brought to trial, when the surgeon and coroner were examined as to what fell within their knowledge. The former confessed that he saw marks of violence on the body; and being asked how he could depose before the coroner that Mr Beddingfield had died a natural death, he replied that he did not think much about it. The prisoners, having nothing to allege in extenuation of their crime, were capitally convicted and sentenced to death. They were placed on one sledge on the morning of their execution, and conveyed to a place near Ipswich, called Rushmore, where Ringe made a pathetic address to the surrounding multitude. The woman persisted in declaring her innocence, and finding Ringe had made a full confession she expressed strong resentment against him; but when tied to the stake she acknowledged herself guilty, and declared that she deserved to die.

JOHN RICE

A City Stockbroker, executed at Tyburn, 4th of May, 1763, for Forgery

JOHN RICE, having received a liberal education, succeeded his father in business as a stockbroker in Spital Square, and was so successful that his profits were estimated at twelve hundred pounds a year.

Unhappily for himself, he lived in too gay a manner, having a country house at Finchley, an elegant town house in John Street, near Gray's Inn, and keeping a coach, chaise, chariot, and several livery-servants: yet still it is probable that he might have supported his credit, but that, flushed with success, he wished to grow still richer than he was, which led him on to that species of gaming called speculating in the stocks, by which he suffered so greatly at different times that he was said to be a loser to the amount of sixty thousand pounds.

In the vain hope of recovering his circumstances he was

tempted to the commission of forgery. Among others of his clients was Mrs Ann Pierce, a Yorkshire lady, who had a very considerable property in South Sea stock; and, in her name, Rice was rash enough to forge letters of attorney, by which he received upwards of nineteen thousand, nine hundred pounds.

Mrs Pierce having occasion to come to town soon after these transactions, Rice, hearing of the intended journey, thought it necessary to consult his safety in flight. Thereupon he took a post-chaise for Dover, and embarked in the packet-boat for Calais, where he soon landed.

Thence he travelled to Cambrai, a city in French Flanders, and the seat of an archbishop, which he had been taught to consider as a privileged place, where he could remain unmolested. It appears, however, that this was not the case; for the Archbishop of Cambrai, though a Prince of the Empire, was subject to the Parliament of Tournai, and had therefore no power to protect a criminal fugitive.

Whether Mrs Rice knew of her husband's design previous to his departure, or by letter from him, is uncertain, but she determined to follow him, and taking a post-chaise reached Harwich, where she embarked in the packet for Holland, designing to travel thence to Cambrai. But the wind proving contrary, the vessel was obliged to put back to Harwich, whence Mrs Rice returned to London, proposing to re-embark on a future occasion.

It is probable that Mrs Rice now apprehended herself in security; but she had no sooner arrived in London than she was taken into custody, and, being carried before the Lord Mayor, bank-notes to the amount of four thousand, seven hundred pounds were found sewn up in her stays.

On her examination she acknowledged whither her husband had retired; and the crime with which he was charged being thought to affect public credit, our Ministry dispatched a messenger to the English ambassador at Paris, desiring he would use his interest with the people in power in France to have the culprit delivered up to the justice of the laws of his native country.

This requisition was instantly complied with; and orders

being sent to Cambrai to secure Mr Rice, notice was transmitted to London that he was in custody; on which one of the clerks of the bank and another of the South Sea House went over with one of the King's Messengers, to bring the unhappy man to England.

On their arrival at the prison of Cambrai they found the presumed culprit in a state of great dejection. They were proceeding to handcuff him, but he fell on his knees and, in tears, implored that they would dispense with this disgraceful circumstance. They generously complied; and Rice was placed in one post-chaise, with the Messenger, the gentlemen preceding them in another.

Having embarked for Dover, they landed, and proceeded immediately towards London. The newspapers having mentioned what had happened respecting Mr Rice, the public curiosity was so much excited that crowds of people attended at every place where they stopped to take a view of the unfortunate prisoner.

On his arrival in London he was carried before the Lord Mayor, who, remarking the utmost candour, even to generosity, in his answers to the questions that were proposed to him, committed him to the Poultry Compter instead of sending him to Newgate, presuming that his situation might be rendered less disagreeable in the former prison than in the latter.

On his way from the compter to the Old Bailey he fainted several times, and when brought to the bar he sank down, without any signs of life; and it was a considerable time before he could be recovered. He was brought to the inner bar, and being languid, pale and trembling was indulged with a chair; but even then it was not without assistance that he was kept up while arraigned. He forged four letters of attorney, but was tried on only one, empowering him to sell five thousand pounds, and for fraudulently selling five hundred pounds, part of that sum, to Thomas Brooksbank. His general appearance and extreme distress touched all present on the awful occasion with compassion. A fatal verdict was, however, pronounced.

After conviction, as well as before, Mr Rice gave every sign of the most sincere contrition. At Tyburn, the place of execution, he attended alone to prayers, where he expressed himself with ardour and fervency, suffering the pains of death with a placid hope of a happy immortality. The mother of Mr Rice was living at the time his misfortunes commenced; and her friends, anxious to alleviate her distress, told her that her son was taken ill at Cambrai. They then added that his life was despaired of, and at length said that he was dead. The old lady lived at Stoke Newington; and when, on the day after execution, the criers of dying speeches made their perambulations, the inhabitants of Newington, with a generosity that will ever do them honour, gave the poor people money not to cry the speeches near the houses.

PAUL LEWIS

An Officer of the Royal Navy, who became a Highwayman, and was executed at Tyburn, 4th of May, 1763

PAUL LEWIS was born at Hurstmonceaux, in Sussex, and was the son of a worthy clergyman, who put him to a grammar school at a very early age. He had an ambition to become a fine gentleman. In his spirited attempts to attain that character he ran into debt with his tailor, to the amount of about one hundred and fifty pounds, which obliged him to run away and go to sea.

There he had for some time behaved so well that he was made first a cadet, then a midshipman, and finally, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy.

He was at the taking of Senegal, the burning of the ships in Cancale Bay, the reduction of Cherbourg, the battle of St Cas, the siege of Guadeloupe, and the engagement under Sir Edward Hawke, in all which services he behaved with courage and activity.

He had vices, however, not common to bravery, and very different from the irregular sallies of a high-spirited

and strong passion. Paul was not only wicked but base, not only a robber but a scoundrel; of which he gave proofs while on board the fleet, particularly by collecting three guineas apiece from many of his brother officers, to lay in stores for a West India voyage, and then running away with the collection from the ship and commencing as highwayman.

Having thus begun his iniquitous course of life, he went to a public-house in Southwark, stayed a great part of the day, and supped; and then, going to an inn, hired a horse, rode out between Newington Butts and Vauxhall, and stopped a gentleman and his son in a post-chaise and robbed them, returning to the public-house in Southwark. Being apprehended for this offence, he was brought to trial at Kingston, when, the people of the public-house swearing that he had not been absent from noon till midnight more than half-an-hour, he was acquitted.

After this he committed a variety of robberies. An accomplice and he having robbed a gentleman and lady in a post-chaise, near Paddington, the robbers rode some miles together and then agreed to part, to commit their depredations separately. Not long had they parted when Lewis stopped a gentleman, named Brown, and demanded his money. Mr Brown resisted the highwayman with such determined resolution that Lewis fired at him, but, happily, without effect.

At this juncture Mr Brown's horse took fright and threw him; but being little injured he soon recovered, and saw Lewis in the custody of Mr Pope, a constable, who had got him down and was kneeling on his breast—a circumstance that arose from the following accident. Mr Pope, riding on the same road, met a gentleman and lady who told him they had been robbed by two highwaymen, and desired him to be cautious; but this induced him to ride on the faster, and he arrived at the critical spot a short time after the robbery was committed, and seized Lewis.

Pope desired Mr Brown to ride after the other highwayman who had been on the road, but at this instant Lewis rose and, presenting a pistol, swore he would shoot Pope.

The latter, however, was in no degree intimidated, but, knocking the pistol out of his hand, threw him down and secured him. The highwayman was conveyed to New Prison, where, having lain one night, he was taken before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate. At an ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey he was brought to trial, and received sentence of death.

Such was the baseness and unfeeling profligacy of this wretch that when his almost heart-broken father visited him for the last time, in Newgate, and put twelve guineas into his hands, to defray his expenses, he slipped one of the pieces of gold into the cuff of his sleeve, by a dexterous sleight, and then opening his hand showed the venerable and reverend old man that there were but eleven; upon which he took from his pocket another and gave it him, to make up the number he intended.

Arrived at Tyburn, he looked round him with a face of inexpressible anguish, and then addressed himself to the multitude in the following terms:—

"This dreadful sight will not, I believe, invite any of you to come here, by following my example; but rather to be warned by me. I am but twenty-three years of age, a clergyman's son, bred up among gentlemen—this wounds me the deeper; for to whom much is given, of them more is required.

HANNAH DAGOE

Sentenced to Death for robbing a Poor Woman. She struggled violently with the Executioner on the Scaffold, 4th of May, 1763

HANNAH DAGOE was born in Ireland, and was of that numerous class of women who ply at Covent Garden Market as basket-women. In the pursuit of her vocation she became acquainted with a poor and industrious woman of the name of Eleanor Hussey, who lived by herself in a small apartment, in which was some creditable household furniture, the remains of the worldly goods of her

deceased husband. Seizing an opportunity, when the owner was from home, this daring woman broke into Hussey's room and stripped it of every article which it contained.

For this burglary and robbery she was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and sentenced to death.

She was a strong, masculine woman, the terror of her fellow-prisoners, and actually stabbed one of the men who had given evidence against her; but the wound happened not to prove dangerous.

On the road to Tyburn she showed little concern at her miserable state, and paid no attention to the exhortations of the Romish priest who attended her. When the cart, in which she was bound, was drawn under the gallows, she got her hands and arms loose, seized the executioner, struggled with him, and gave him so violent a blow on the breast that she nearly knocked him down. She dared him to hang her; and in order to revenge herself upon him, and cheat him of his dues, she took off her hat, cloak and other parts of her dress, and disposed of them among the crowd. After much resistance he got the rope about her neck, which she had no sooner found accomplished than, pulling out a handkerchief, she bound it round her head and over her face, and threw herself out of the cart, before the signal was given, with such violence that she broke her neck and died instantly.

This extraordinary and unprecedented scene occurred on the 4th of May, 1763.

THOMAS WATKINS

Executed in the Market-Place of Windsor, 7th of March, 1764, for Murder

THIS hardened villain was nearly sixty years of age when he committed, with aggravated cruelty, the foul crime for which he most justly underwent the sentence of the law.

Two maiden ladies of fortune, of the name of Hammersley, resided near Windsor. On the night of the 4th of

February some ruffians broke into their house with such caution that they took the ladies' pockets from under their pillows while the owners were asleep. A maid-servant, who it was supposed had been alarmed, was murdered by them before they quitted the house.

The struggles of the poor woman awoke the ladies. They called, but getting no answer they got up, and procured a light, and, to their horror, found the dead body of their faithful servant, with a handkerchief crammed into her mouth, a cord tightly twisted round her neck, and her head forced between her legs, and tied to the foot of the bedstead.

A reward of fifty pounds being offered for the apprehension and conviction of the murderer, Thomas Watkins, by trade a gardener, was taken up on suspicion, and committed to Reading Jail.

His trial occupied eight hours, during which the hardened wretch behaved with great resolution, asked the witness many questions, and asserted his innocence in the strongest terms. Though no absolute proof could be adduced of his having committed the murder, a great number of concurring circumstances rendered his guilt clear to the jury, who, with little deliberation, found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

He was carried in a post-chaise from Reading to Windsor, where the murder was committed, accompanied by the executioner, the under-sheriff and his javelin-men. His body was afterwards hung in chains.

WILLIAM CORBETT

An American, executed at Tyburn, 4th of April, 1764, for the Murder of his Landlord and his Family

THIS man of blood was born in Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, and bred a shipwright. His mother dying when he was very young, he ran away to Connecticut, in New England, where he entered on board a sloop, and made two or three voyages; but not living so well as he

expected on board the ship, he deserted. When he came to Boston he contracted himself with a gentleman who dealt in lumber, which he sent in vessels to the West Indies; and Corbett made several voyages in his service, but was so addicted to drinking and theft that he received frequent correction for those vices.

At length he sailed to Newfoundland with one Captain Warton, and as he was a good ship-carpenter he might have been happy in his situation, but his irregularities obliged the Captain to dismiss him. Then he procured employment in repairing fishing-boats and other craft; but, spending his earnings in great extravagance, he involved himself in debt, which obliged him to embark on board a ship for Barbados, to avoid prison.

Then he sailed to several parts of North America, and at length settled at Halifax, in Nova Scotia; after which he sailed to England, and associated with the worst of company in Wapping and Rotherhithe, which tended still further to debauch a mind already much depraved.

A few weeks before Corbett committed the crime for which he suffered he took lodgings at the house of Mr Knight, a publican at Rotherhithe. He had not been long in the family, which consisted only of the man, his wife and the maid-servant, before he resolved on the murder of them all; but the maid-servant escaped his fury.

At the Surrey Assizes in 1764 William Corbett was indicted for the murder of Henry Knight and Anne, his wife, by cutting their throats; and was again indicted, on the coroner's inquest, for the said murder; and a third time, for robbing the house. He was found guilty on his own confession and a variety of collateral evidence.

After having committed the murder he rifled the house of money, and even put on some of Mr Knight's linen and other clothes. He then went to Billingsgate, where he was apprehended. After conviction he acknowledged that he endeavoured to set fire to Mr Knight's house.

On the day of execution he was conveyed to Kennington Common, where he again acknowledged his guilt, and,

having spent about a quarter of an hour in devotion, underwent the sentence of the law, and was hung in chains on the road between Rotherhithe and Deptford.

JOHN WESKET AND JOHN COOPER

The Former was executed at Tyburn, 9th of January, 1765, for robbing his Master, the Earl of Harrington; and the Latter transported for Fourteen Years for receiving Stolen Goods

JOHN WESKET had been for many years a gentleman's servant, and had pilfered from several of his employers. In company with one Bradley he robbed the house of a gentleman in Hatton Garden, and also the chambers of Mr Montague, a Master in Chancery.

Wesket was engaged as a porter to Lord Harrington in the year 1762, but continued his acquaintance with Bradley, and was likewise intimate with Cooper, who kept a chandler's shop in Little Turnstile, at whose house Bradley lodged; and both these men visited Wesket at his new place.

Wesket having formed a plan for robbing his noble master imparted his design to the other two. He and Bradley agreed to commit the robbery on the following Saturday night, when Lord and Lady Harrington were going to the opera, which would give Wesket an opportunity of concealing his accomplice in the house. Wesket secreted Bradley in his chamber, and told him to remain there till about midnight, when he would come to him.

Lord Harrington and his lady came from the opera about twelve at night, and less than two hours afterwards, when all the family were quiet, Wesket went to his accomplice and took him into the kitchen, where an impression from Bradley's dirty shoes was made on the dresser, and they then made a similar impression in the area, first leaving the kitchen window open, as an intimation that the robber had gone off that way.

They now went into the study, where they lighted a candle; and Wesket having forced open the bureau, by means of a gimlet and chisel, they took out notes, jewels and money, to the amount of two thousand pounds, all which Wesket assigned to the care of Bradley, bidding him carry the booty to Cooper, and then let him out at the street door and went to bed.

When Lord Harrington went into his study he discovered the depredation that had been made on his property, whereupon a strict search was made through the house, to find which way the thief had escaped; and then it was that the impression of Bradley's shoes was noticed on the dresser and in the area. But, as it was observed that no footsteps appeared except in the kitchen and area, it was presumed that some person within the house had committed the robbery.

The chisel, gimlet and tinder-box were found by the steward, who interrogated Wesket respecting the robbery. Some suspicion arising that he had a concern in it, Lord Harrington sent for a magistrate, who questioned all the servants in the strictest manner; and Wesket, in whose pocket ten guineas were found, was turned away, on the presumption of his guilt, as nothing arose that could justify the magistrate in committing him to prison.

He was no sooner dismissed than he went into one of the boxes at Covent Garden Theatre, when Bradley, happening to see him from the gallery, waited for him at the playhouse door, after the entertainment was over. Wesket having informed his companion of what had passed since the robbery, Bradley told him what booty had been obtained, and desired him to come to Cooper's and inspect it. They accordingly met on the following day, when Bradley, representing the danger of trying to put off the notes in London, proposed to attempt doing it at Chester Fair. This being agreed to, Bradley went to the fair, where he purchased a quantity of linen, for which he paid the notes to the Irish dealers, and received the balance in cash.

The Earl of Harrington having kept the number of one

of the notes of which he had been robbed, it was carried to the bank, where the payment of it was stopped, and it was traced through the hands of many persons to those of Mr Smith, a Liverpool merchant, who said he took it of Mr Breath, a linen factor, at Newry, in Ireland. Mr Breath being written to, his answer was that he received it of a person at Chester Fair, who said his name was Walker, and was dressed like a gentleman, but had nothing in his behaviour that could warrant his assuming that title.

On this Lord Harrington's steward went to Chester to endeavour to learn where the supposed Walker had lodged during the fair; which he found to have been at the house of a shoemaker named Rippington. He learned further that Walker had set out for London in a post-chaise, and on his arrival in the metropolis had written a letter desiring that a pocket-book, which he had left behind him, might be sent to the St Clement's Coffee-House, in the Strand.

The steward received this letter, and brought it to London and delivered it to Sir John Fielding, when it was discovered to be Bradley's writing. Thereupon the active magistrate above mentioned caused several persons to attend at the coffee-house; but no discovery arose from this diligence.

Bradley's person was immediately described in handbills, which were circulated through the kingdom, and a reward was offered for taking him. At this juncture a hackney-coachman declared in a public-house that in his hayloft was a large chest belonging to one Bradley, and that Cooper had delivered the chest to his care; but he knew not its contents. On this Cooper was sent for to Sir John Fielding's; and, strong suspicions of the guilt both of him and Wesket arising, they were committed to Newgate for trial.

In a few days Bradley was found, dressed in seaman's apparel, at a public-house in Wapping, and, being conducted to Bow Street, he made such a declaration respecting the robbery that Sir John Fielding thought proper to admit him an evidence against the other parties.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, Wesket and Cooper

were brought to trial, when the former was capitally convicted for the burglary, and sentenced to die; and Cooper was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years, as the receiver of stolen effects.

BARNEY CARROL AND WILLIAM KING

Convicted under the Coventry Act for cutting and maiming, and executed at Tyburn, 31st of July, 1765

BY an Act of Parliament passed in the 22nd and 23rd of King Charles II. it was enacted that:

"If any person, on purpose, and by malice aforethought, and by lying in wait, shall unlawfully cut or disable the tongue, put out an eye, slit the nose, cut off a nose or lip, or cut off or disable any limb or member of any subject, with intention in so doing to maim or disfigure him; the person so offending, his counsellors, aiders, abettors (knowing of, and privy to, the offence), shall be guilty of felony, without benefit of clergy."

This Act was called the Coventry Act, because it was made on Sir John Coventry's being assaulted in the street and having his nose slit.

Carrol and King had both been soldiers, and as such behaved unexceptionably, particularly at the siege of Havana, where Carrol was distinguished by his bravery; but on their return to England they determined to commence as robbers, and this on a plan attended with the most infernal cruelty.

They procured two boys, named Byfield and Matthews, who were to pick pockets, and if they were seized the men were to procure their release by cutting the parties who held them across their faces with a knife.

Carrol having sharpened his weapon of destruction, they all went out together on the night of the 17th of June, 1765, and, continuing their route from Covent Garden to the Strand, saw a gentleman, named Kirby, near Somerset

House, who was walking very slow, on account of the heat of the weather, which made them think him a proper object of attack.

On this Carrol directed Byfield to pick the gentleman's pocket. Byfield had got his hand in the pocket, when Mr Kirby seized him and threatened to carry him before a magistrate, but only to terrify him from such practices for the future.

On this the other three villains followed Mr Kirby so closely that he suspected their connection; but he still held the boy, to frighten him the more, though he observed Carrol sometimes before and sometimes behind him. At length the villain came so near that the boy cried out, "Keep off; the gentleman will let me go!" when Carrol replied, "Damn him, but I will cut him!"

Mr Kirby now felt great pain, but had no idea that he had been wounded by any sharp instrument, apprehending that his pain proceeded only from a common blow. At length he found a defect in his sight, and presumed that dust had been thrown in his eyes; but on putting his hand to his face he found that it streamed with blood.

Going to the Crown and Anchor tavern, in the Strand, Mr Ingram, a surgeon of eminence, almost immediately attended him; but, though the utmost expedition was used in calling in the assistance of that gentleman, Mr Kirby had lost nearly two quarts of blood in the short interval. On examination it appeared that the wound had been given in a transverse direction, from the right eye to the left temple; that two large vessels were divided by it; that there was a cut across the nose, which left the bone visible; and that the eyeballs must have been divided by the slightest deviation from the stroke.

The abominable assassins were very soon apprehended, found guilty, and hanged, amid the execrations of an offended multitude.

JOHN CROUCH AND WIFE

Convicted for offering to sell, on the Royal Exchange, a Young Girl, 12th of May, 1766

ON the 15th of January, 1766, an elderly man and woman were observed on the Royal Exchange, London, with a fine young girl, apparently fourteen years of age, but thinly and shabbily clothed, and consequently shivering with cold in that inclement season of the year. It was first conceived that they were asking charity, as the man had addressed two or three gentlemen, from whom he received a contemptuous denial. At length he accosted an honest captain of a ship, who instantly made known the base proposal which had been made to him, which was to purchase the unfortunate and innocent girl.

The parties were immediately taken into custody by the beadles of the Exchange, and carried before the sitting magistrate at Guildhall, who committed the man and woman to prison, as vagrants, and ordered the girl to be taken care of in the London Workhouse. On their examination they persisted that the girl was their own child; but it appeared so unnatural that parents in Britain should offer for sale their offspring that an inquiry into the transaction was set on foot.

At the general sessions of the peace, held at Guildhall aforesaid, on the 12th of May following, this unnatural man and woman were brought to the bar. It appeared that the man was named John Crouch, and that his residence was at Bodmin, in Cornwall. The woman was his wife, and the unfortunate girl his niece; and having heard "that young maidens were very scarce in London, and that they sold for a good price," he took her out of the poorhouse there and, accompanied by his wife, had set off, and travelled on foot from Bodmin to London, two hundred and thirty-two miles, in order to mend their fortune by her sale.

The jury found the man guilty on an indictment presented against him for an offence far short of his crime;

but considering the woman under his influence acquitted her. The husband was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Newgate, and to pay a fine of one shilling.

THE COUNTESS OF BRISTOL OTHERWISE THE DUCHESS OF KINGSTON

Whose Trial for Bigamy, at Westminster Hall, was attended by the Queen and other Members of the Royal Family

FEW women have attracted so large a portion of public attention as the Countess of Bristol, otherwise the Duchess of Kingston. She was the daughter of Colonel Chudleigh, the descendant of an ancient family in the county of Devon; but her father dying while she was yet young, her mother was left possessed only of a small estate with which to bring her up, and to fit her for that grade of society in which from her birth she was entitled to move. Being possessed, however, of excellent qualities, she improved the connection which she had among persons of fashion, with a view to the future success in life of her daughter. The latter meanwhile, as she advanced in years, improved in beauty; and upon her attaining the age of eighteen was distinguished as well for the loveliness of her person as for the wit and brilliancy of her conversation. Her education had not been neglected; and, despite the small fortune possessed by her mother, no opportunity was lost by which her mind might be improved, and a means was about this time afforded for the display of her accomplishments. The father of George III. held his Court at Leicester House; and Mr Pulteney, who then blazed as a meteor on the Opposition benches in the House of Commons, was honoured with the particular regard of his Royal Highness. Miss Chudleigh had been introduced to Mr Pulteney; and he had admired her for the beauties of her mind and of her person, and, his sympathies being excited on her behalf, he obtained for her, at the age of eighteen, the appointment

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Representation of the Trial of the Dutchess of Kingston

of maid-of-honour to the Princess of Wales. His efforts, however, did not stop at thus elevating her to a situation of the highest honour, but he also endeavoured to improve the cultivation of her understanding by instruction; and to him Miss Chudleigh read, and with him, when separated by distance, she corresponded.

The station to which Miss Chudleigh had been advanced, combined with her numerous personal attractions, produced her many admirers—some with titles, and others in the expectation of them. Among the former was the Duke of Hamilton, whom Miss Gunning had afterwards the good fortune to obtain for a consort. The Duke was passionately attached to Miss Chudleigh, and pressed his suit with such ardour as to obtain a solemn engagement on her part that, on his return from a tour, for which he was preparing, she would become his wife. There were reasons why this event should not immediately take place; but that the engagement would be fulfilled at the specified time was considered by both parties as a moral certainty. A mutual pledge was given and accepted; the Duke commenced his proposed tour, and the parting condition was, that he should write by every opportunity, and that Miss Chudleigh of course should answer his epistles. Thus the arrangement of Fortune seemed to have united a pair who possibly might have experienced much happiness, for between the Duke and Miss Chudleigh there was a strong similarity of disposition, but Fate had not destined them for each other.

Miss Chudleigh had an aunt, whose name was Hanmer: at her house the Hon. Mr Hervey, son of the Earl of Bristol, and a captain in the Royal Navy, was a visitor. To this gentleman Mrs Hanmer became so exceedingly partial that she favoured views which he entertained towards her niece, and engaged her efforts to effect, if possible, a matrimonial connection. There were two difficulties, which would have been insurmountable had they not been opposed by the fertile genius of a female—Miss Chudleigh disliked Captain Hervey, and she was betrothed to the Duke of Hamilton.

No exertions which could possibly be made were spared to render this latter alliance nugatory; and the wits of this woman were exerted to the utmost to favour the object which she had in view. The letters of his Grace were intercepted by Mrs Hanmer; and his supposed silence giving offence to her niece, she worked so successfully on her pride as to induce her to abandon all thoughts of her lover, whose passion she had cherished with delight. A conduct the reverse of that imputed to the Duke was observed by Captain Hervey: he was all that assiduity could dictate or attention perform. He had daily access to Miss Chudleigh, and each interview was artfully improved by the aunt to the promotion of her own views. The letters of his Grace of Hamilton, which regularly arrived, were as regularly suppressed; until, piqued beyond endurance, Miss Chudleigh was prevailed on to accept the hand of Captain Hervey, and by a private marriage to ensure the participation of his future honours and fortune. The ceremony was performed in a private chapel adjoining the country mansion of Mr Merrill, at Lainston, near Winchester, in Hampshire.

The hour at which she became united with Captain Hervey proved to her the origin of every subsequent unhappiness. The connubial rites were attended with unhappy consequences; and from the night following the day on which the marriage was solemnised Miss Chudleigh resolved never to have any further connection with her husband. To prevail on him not to claim her as his wife required all the art of which she was mistress; and the best dissuasive was the loss of her situation as maid-of-honour should the marriage become publicly known. The circumstances of Captain Hervey were not in a flourishing condition, and were ill calculated to enable him to ride with a high hand over his wife; and the fear of the loss of the emoluments of her office operated most powerfully with him to induce him to obey the injunctions which she imposed upon him in this respect. Her marriage being unknown to mere outward observers, Miss Chudleigh, or Mrs Hervey—a maid in appearance, a wife in disguise—was placed in a most

enviable condition. Her Royal mistress smiled upon her; the friendship of many was at her call; the admiration of none could be withheld from her: but amidst all her conquests and all her fancied happiness she wanted that peace of mind which was so necessary to support her against the conflicts which arose in her own breast. Her husband, quieted for a time, grew obstreperous as he saw the jewel admired by all, which was, he felt, entitled only to his love; and feeling that he possessed the right to her entire consideration resolved to assert his power. In the meantime every art which she possessed had been put into operation to soothe him to continued silence; but her further endeavours being unsuccessful she was compelled to grant his request, and to attend an interview which he appointed at his own house, and to which he enforced obedience by threatening an instant and full disclosure in case of her noncompliance. The meeting was strictly private, all persons being sent from the house with the exception of a black servant; and on Mrs Hervey's entrance to the apartment in which her husband was seated his first care was to prevent all intrusion by locking the door. This meeting, like all others between her and her husband, was unfortunate in its effects: the fruit of it was the birth of a boy, whose existence it will be readily supposed she had much difficulty in concealing. Her removal to Brompton for a change of air became requisite during the term of her confinement, and she returned to Leicester House perfectly recovered from her indisposition; but the infant soon sinking in the arms of death, left only the tale of its existence to be related.

In the meantime the sum of her unhappiness had been completed by the return of the Duke of Hamilton. His Grace had no sooner arrived in England than he hastened to pay his adoration at the feet of his idol, and to learn the cause of her silence when his letters had been regularly dispatched to her. An interview which took place soon set the character of Mrs Hanmer in its true light; but while Miss Chudleigh was convinced of the imposition which

had been practised upon her, she was unable to accept the proffered hand of her illustrious suitor, or to explain the reason for her apparently ungracious rejection of his addresses. The Duke, flighty as he was in other respects, in his love for Miss Chudleigh had at least been sincere; and this strange conduct on the part of his betrothed, followed as it was by a request on her part that he would not again intrude his visits upon her, raised emotions in his mind which can hardly be described. The rejection of his Grace was followed by that of several other persons of distinction; and the mother of Miss Chudleigh, who was quite unaware of her private marriage with Captain Hervey, could not conceal her regret and anger at the supposed folly of her daughter.

It was impossible that these circumstances could long remain concealed from the society in which Miss Chudleigh moved; and, in order to relieve herself from the embarrassments by which she was surrounded, she determined to travel on the Continent. Germany was the place selected by her for her travels; and she, in turn, visited the chief cities of its principalities. Possessed as she was of introductions of the highest class, she was gratified by obtaining the acquaintance of many crowned heads. Frederick of Prussia conversed and corresponded with her. In the Electress of Saxony she found a friend whose affection for her continued to the latest period of life.

On her return from the Continent Miss Chudleigh ran over the career of pleasure, enlivened the Court circles, and each year became more ingratiated with the mistress whom she served. She was the leader of fashion, played whist with Lord Chesterfield, and revelled with Lady Harrington and Miss Ashe. She was a constant visitant at all public places, and in 1742 appeared at a masked ball in the character of Iphigenia.

Captain Hervey, like a perturbed spirit, was, however, eternally crossing the path trodden by his wife. If in the rooms at Bath, he was sure to be there. At a rout, ridotto or ball, this destroyer of her peace embittered every pleasure,

and even menaced her with an intimation that he would disclose the marriage to the Princess.

Miss Chudleigh, now persuaded of the folly and danger of any longer concealment from her Royal mistress, determined that the design which her husband had formed from a malicious feeling should be carried out by herself from a principle of rectitude; and she, in consequence, communicated to the Princess the whole of the circumstances attending her unhappy union. Her Royal mistress pitied her, and continued her patronage up to the hour of her death.

At length a stratagem was either suggested or it occurred to Miss Chudleigh at once to deprive Captain Hervey of the power to claim her as his wife. The clergyman who had married them was dead. The register-book was in careless hands. A handsome compliment was paid for the inspection; and, while the person in whose custody it was listened to an amusing story, Miss Chudleigh tore out the register. Thus imagining the business accomplished, she for a time bade defiance to her husband, whose taste for the softer sex having subsided from some unaccountable cause, afforded Miss Chudleigh a cessation of inquietude.

A change in the circumstances of the Captain, however, effected an alteration in the feelings of his wife. His father having died, he succeeded to the title of the Earl of Bristol, and his accession to nobility was not unaccompanied by an increase of fortune. Miss Chudleigh saw that by assuming the title of Countess of Bristol she would probably command increased respect, and would obtain greater power; and with a degree of unparalleled blindness she went to the house of Mr Merrill, the clergyman in whose chapel she had been married, to restore those proofs of her union which she had previously taken such pains to destroy. Her ostensible reason was a jaunt out of town; her real design was to procure, if possible, the insertion of her marriage with Captain Hervey in the book which she had formerly mutilated. With this view she dealt out promises with a liberal hand. The officiating clerk, who was a person of various avocations, was to be promoted to the extent of his

wishes. The book was managed by the lady to her content, and she returned to London, secretly exulting in the excellence and success of her machination. While this was going on, however, her better fate influenced in her favour the heart of a man who was the exemplar of amiability—this was the Duke of Kingston; but, remarried as it were by her own stratagem, the participation of ducal honours became legally impossible. The chains of wedlock now became galling in the extreme. Every advice was taken, every means tried, by which her liberation might be obtained; but all the efforts which were made proved useless, and it was found to be necessary to acquiesce in that which could not be opposed successfully or pass unnoticed. The Duke's passion, meanwhile, became more ardent and sincere; and, finding the apparent impossibility of a marriage taking place, he for a series of years cohabited with Miss Chudleigh, although with such external observances of decorum that their intimacy was neither generally remarked nor known.

The disagreeable nature of these proceedings on their part was, however, felt by both parties, and efforts were again made by means of which a marriage might be solemnised. The Earl of Bristol was sounded; but upon his learning the design with which a divorce was sought he declared that he would never consent to it, for that his Countess's vanity should not be flattered by her being raised to the rank of a duchess. The negotiations were thus for a time stopped; but afterwards, there being a lady with whom he conceived that he could make an advantageous match, he listened to the suggestions which were made to him with more complacency, and at length declared that he was ready to adopt any proceedings which should have for their effect the annihilation of the ties by which he was bound to Miss Chudleigh. The civilians were consulted, a jactitation suit was instituted; but the evidence by which the marriage could have been proved was kept back, and the Earl of Bristol failing, as it was intended he should fail, in substantiating the marriage, a decree was made, declaring the claim to be null and unsupported. Legal opinion now only

remained to be taken as to the effect of this decree, and the lawyers of the Ecclesiastical Courts, highly tenacious of the rights and jurisdiction of their own judges, declared their opinion to be that the sentence could not be disturbed by the interference of any extrinsic power. In the conviction, therefore, of the most perfect safety, the marriage of the Duke of Kingston with Miss Chudleigh was publicly solemnised. The wedding favours were worn by persons of the highest distinction in the kingdom; and during the lifetime of his Grace no attempt was made to dispute the legality of the proceedings. For a few years the Duchess figured in the world of gaiety without apprehension or control. She was raised to the pinnacle of her fortune, and she enjoyed that which her later life had been directed to accomplish—the parade of title—but without that honour which integrity of character can alone secure. She was checked in her career of pleasure, however, by the death of the Duke. The fortune which his Grace possessed, it appears, was not entailed, and it was at his option, therefore, to bequeath it to the Duchess or to the heirs of his family, as seemed best to his inclination. His will, excluding from every benefit an elder, and preferring a younger, nephew as the heir in tail, gave rise to the prosecution of the Duchess, which ended in the beggary of her prosecutor and her own exile. The demise of the Duke of Kingston was neither sudden nor unexpected. Being attacked with a paralytic affection, he lingered but a short time, which was employed by the Duchess in journeying his Grace from town to town, under the false idea of prolonging his life by change of air and situation. At last, when real danger seemed to threaten, even in the opinion of the Duchess, she dispatched one of her swiftest-footed messengers to her solicitor, Mr Field, of the Temple, requiring his immediate attendance. He obeyed the summons, and, arriving at the house, the Duchess asked him to procure the Duke to execute, and be himself a subscribing witness to, a will made without his knowledge, and more to the taste of the Duchess than that which had been executed. The difference between these two

wills was this: the Duke had bequeathed the income of his estates to his relict during her life expressly under the condition of her continuing in a state of widowhood. Perfectly satisfied, however, as the Duchess seemed with whatever was the inclination of her dearest lord, she could not resist the opportunity of carrying her secret wishes into effect. She did not relish the temple of Hymen being shut against her. Mr Field, however, positively refused either to tender the will or to be in any manner concerned in endeavouring to procure its execution; and with this refusal he quitted the house. Soon after the frustration of this attempt the Duke of Kingston expired.

No sooner were the funeral rites performed than the Duchess adjusted her affairs and embarked for the Continent, proposing Rome for her temporary residence. Ganganelli at that time filled the papal chair. He treated her with the utmost civility—gave her, as a sovereign prince, many privileges—and she was lodged in the palace of one of the cardinals. Her vanity being thus gratified, her Grace, in return, treated the Romans with a public spectacle. She had built an elegant pleasure yacht; a gentleman who had served in the navy was the commander. Under her orders he sailed for Italy; and the vessel, at considerable trouble and expense, was conveyed up the Tiber. The sight of an English yacht in this river was one of so unusual a character that it attracted crowds of admirers; but, while all seemed happiness and pleasure where the barque rested quietly on the waters of the river, proceedings were being concocted in London which would effectually put a stop to any momentary sensations of bliss which the Duchess might entertain.

Mrs Cradock, who, in the capacity of a domestic, had witnessed the marriage which had been solemnised between her Grace and the Earl of Bristol, found herself so reduced in circumstances that she was compelled to apply to Mr Field for assistance. The request was rejected; and, notwithstanding her assurance that she was perfectly well aware of all the circumstances attending the Duchess's marriage, and that she should not hesitate to disclose all she knew in

a quarter where she would be liberally paid—namely, to the disappointed relations of the Duke of Kingston—she was set at defiance. Thus refused, starvation stared her in the face; and, stung by the ingratitude of the Duchess's solicitor, she immediately set about the work of ruin which she contemplated. The Duke of Kingston had borne a marked dislike to one of his nephews, Mr Evelyn Meadows, one of the sons of his sister, Lady Frances Pierpoint. This gentleman, being excluded from the presumptive heirship, joyfully received the intelligence that a method of revenging himself against the Duchess was presented to him. He saw Mrs Cradock; learned from her the particulars of the statement which she would be able to make upon oath; and, being perfectly satisfied of its truth, he preferred a bill of indictment against the Duchess of Kingston for bigamy, which was duly returned a true bill. Notice was immediately given to Mr Field of the proceedings, and advices were forthwith sent to the Duchess to appear and plead to the indictment, to prevent a judgment of outlawry.

The Duchess's immediate return to England being thus required, she set about making the necessary preparations for her journey; and, as money was one of the commodities requisite to enable her to commence her homeward march, she proceeded to the house of Mr Jenkins, the banker in Rome, in whose hands she had placed security for the advance of all such sums as she might require. The opposition of her enemies, however, had already commenced; they had adopted a line of policy exactly suited to the lady with whom they had to deal. Mr Jenkins was out, and could not be found. She apprised him, by letter, of her intended journey, and her consequent want of money; but still he avoided seeing her. Suspecting the trick, her Grace was not to be trifled with, and, finding all her efforts fail, she took a pair of pistols in her pocket and, driving to Mr Jenkins's house, once again demanded to be admitted. The customary answer, that Mr Jenkins was out, was given; but the Duchess declared that she was determined to wait until she saw him, even if it should not be until a day,

month or year had elapsed; and she took her seat on the steps of the door, which she kept open with the muzzle of one of her pistols, apparently determined to remain there. She knew that business would compel his return, if he were not already indoors; and at length Mr Jenkins, finding further opposition useless, appeared. The nature of her business was soon explained. The conversation was not of the mildest kind. Money was demanded, not asked. A little prevarication ensued, but the production of a pistol served as the most powerful mode of reasoning, and, the necessary sum being instantly obtained, the Duchess quitted Rome. She went to Calais, where she embarked for Dover, landed, drove post to Kingston House, and found friends displaying both zeal and alacrity in her cause. The first measure taken was to have the Duchess bailed. This was done before Lord Mansfield—the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Mountstuart, Mr Glover and other characters of rank attending. The prosecution and consequent trial of the Duchess becoming objects of magnitude, the public curiosity and expectation were proportionably excited.

It became the subject of a discussion in the House of Lords whether the trial of her Grace should not be conducted in Westminster Hall; and the expense which would necessarily be incurred by the country was by many urged as being a burden which ought not to rest upon the public purse. On the 15th of April, 1776, the business came on in Westminster Hall, when the Queen was present, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Princess Royal, and others of the Royal Family. Many foreign ambassadors also attended, as well as several of the nobility. These having taken their seats, the Duchess came forward, attended by Mrs Edgerton, Mrs Barrington and Miss Chudleigh, three of the ladies of her bedchamber, and her chaplain, physician and apothecary; and as she approached the bar she made three reverences and then dropped on her knees, when the Lord High Steward said: "Madam, you may rise." Having risen, she curtsied to the Lord High Steward and the House of Peers, and her compliments were returned.

Proclamation being made for silence, the Lord High Steward mentioned to the prisoner the fatal consequences attending the crime of which she stood indicted, signifying that, however alarming and awful her present circumstances, she might derive great consolation from considering that she was to be tried by the most liberal, candid and august assembly in the universe.

The Duchess then read a paper setting forth that she was guiltless of the offence alleged against her, and that the agitation of her mind arose, not from the consciousness of guilt, but from the painful circumstance of being called before so awful a tribunal on a criminal accusation.

The Lord High Steward then desired the lady to give attention while she was arraigned on an indictment for bigamy; and proclamation for silence having been again made, the Duchess (who had been permitted to sit) arose and read a paper, representing to the Court that she was advised by her counsel to plead the sentence of the Ecclesiastical Court in the year 1769 as a bar to her being tried on the present indictment. The Lord High Steward informed her that she must plead to the indictment: in consequence of which she was arraigned; and being asked by the Clerk of the Crown whether she was guilty of the felony with which she stood charged she answered, with great firmness: "Not guilty, my Lords." The Clerk of the Crown then asking her how she would be tried she said: "By God and my peers"; on which the clerk said: "God send your ladyship a good deliverance."

Four days were occupied in arguments of counsel respecting the admission or rejection of a sentence of the Spiritual Court; but the Peers having decided that it could not be admitted, the trial proceeded.

On Monday, the 22nd of April, after the Attorney-General had declared the evidence on behalf of the prosecution to be concluded, the Lord High Steward called upon the prisoner for her defence, which she read. She appealed to the Searcher of all hearts that she never considered herself as legally married to Mr Hervey; she said that she considered

herself as a single woman, and as such was addressed by the late Duke of Kingston; and that, influenced by a legitimate attachment to his Grace, she instituted a suit in the Ecclesiastical Court, when her supposed marriage with Mr Hervey was declared null and void; but, anxious for every conscientious as well as legal sanction, she submitted an authentic statement of her case to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who, in the most decisive and unreserved manner, declared that she was at liberty to marry, and afterwards granted, and delivered to Dr Collier, a special licence for her marriage with the late Duke of Kingston. She said that on her marriage she experienced every mark of gracious esteem from their Majesties, and her late Royal mistress, the Princess Dowager of Wales, and was publicly recognised as Duchess of Kingston. Under such respectable sanctions and virtuous motives for the conduct she pursued, strengthened by a decision that had been esteemed conclusive and irrevocable for the space of seven centuries, if their Lordships should deem her guilty on any rigid principle of law, she hoped, nay, she was conscious, they would attribute her failure as proceeding from a mistaken judgment and erroneous advice, and would not censure her for intentional guilt.

Evidence was produced on behalf of her Grace, and the Lord High Steward addressed their Lordships, saying that, the evidence on both sides having been heard, it now became their Lordships' duty to proceed to the consideration of the case; that the importance and solemnity of the occasion required that they should severally pronounce their opinions in the absence of the prisoner at the bar, and that it was for the junior baron to speak first.

The prisoner having then been removed, their Lordships declared that they found her guilty of the offence imputed to her.

Proclamation was then made that the Usher of the Black Rod should replace the prisoner at the bar; and, immediately on her appearing, the Lord High Steward informed her that the Lords had maturely considered the evidence adduced against her, as well as the testimony of the witnesses who

had been called on her behalf, and that they had pronounced her guilty of the felony for which she was indicted. He then inquired whether she had anything to say why judgment should not be pronounced against her.

The Duchess immediately handed in a paper containing the words, "I plead the privilege of the peerage," which were read by the clerk at the table.

The Lord High Steward then informed her Grace that the Lords had considered the plea, and agreed to allow it, adding: "Madam, you will be discharged on paying the usual fees."

The Duchess during the trial appeared to be perfectly collected, but on sentence being pronounced she fainted, and was carried out of court.

This solemnity was concluded on the 22nd of April, 1776. But the prosecutors still had a plan in embryo to confine the person of the Countess of Bristol—for to this rank she was now again reduced—to the kingdom, and to deprive her of her personal property; and a writ of *ne exeat regno* was actually in the course of preparation, but private notice being conveyed to her of this circumstance she was advised immediately to quit the country. In order to conceal her flight she caused her carriage to be driven publicly through the streets, and invited a large party to dine at her house; but, without waiting to apologise to her guests, she drove to Dover in a post-chaise, and there entering a boat with Mr Harvey, the captain of her yacht, she accompanied him to Calais. Circumstances of which she had been advised, and which had occurred during the period of her absence from Rome, rendered her immediate presence in that city necessary, and proceeding thither, without loss of time, she found that a Spanish friar, whom she had left in charge of her palace and furniture, had found means to convert her property into money, and after having seduced a young English girl, who had also been left in the palace, had absconded. Having now obtained the whole of her plate from the public bank where she had deposited it, she returned to Calais, which she adopted as the best place at which she could fix her residence, in consequence of the

expeditious communication which existed between that town and London, by means of which she might be afforded the earliest intelligence of the proceedings of her opponents.

Their business was now to set aside, if possible, the will of the Duke of Kingston. There was no probability of the success of the attempt, but there was sufficient doubt upon the subject in the mind of the Countess to keep all her apprehensions alive. The will of his Grace of Kingston, however, received every confirmation which the Courts of Justice could give, and the object of the Countess now was to dissipate rather than expend the income of his estates. A house which she had purchased at Calais was not sufficient for her purpose; a mansion at Montmartre, near Paris, was fixed on, and the purchase of it was negotiated in as short a time as the Countess could desire. This house being in a ruinous condition a lawsuit was brought by her. Going to St Petersburg, she turned brandy-distiller, but returned to Paris before the lawsuit was settled. The possession of such a place, however, was not sufficient for the Countess, and she proceeded to make a second purchase of a house, built upon a scale of infinite grandeur. The brother of the existing French king was the owner of a domain suited in every respect for the residence of a person of such nobility, and the Countess determined to become its mistress. It was called the territory of St Assise, and was situated at a pleasant distance from Paris, abounding in game of all descriptions, and rich in all the luxuriant embellishments of nature. The mansion was of a size which rendered it fit for the occupation of a king: it contained three hundred beds. The value of such an estate was too considerable to be expected in one payment; she therefore agreed to discharge the whole of the sum demanded, which was fifty-five thousand pounds, by instalments. The purchase on the part of the Countess was a good one. It afforded not only game, but rabbits in plenty; and, finding them of superior quality and flavour, her ladyship, during the first week of her possession, had as many killed and sold as brought her three hundred guineas. At St Petersburg

she had been a distiller of brandy; and now at Paris she turned rabbit-merchant.

Such was her situation when one day, while she was at dinner, her servants received the intelligence that judgment respecting the house near Paris had been awarded against her. The sudden communication of the news produced an agitation of her whole frame. She flew into a violent passion, and burst an internal blood vessel. She walked a little about her room, and afterwards said: "I will lie down on the couch; I can sleep, and after that I shall be entirely recovered." She seated herself on the couch, a female having hold of each hand. In this situation she soon appeared to have fallen into a sound sleep, until the women felt her hands colder than ordinary, and she was found to have expired. She died on the 26th of August, 1796.

SAMUEL ORTON

Clerk to the Court of Requests, executed 14th of January, 1767, for forging Two Letters of Attorney, in the Name of Captain Bishop, by means of which he received One Thousand Pounds from the Bank of England

SAMUEL ORTON was a native of London. While he was in a state of infancy his father died, leaving Mrs Orton in possession of a handsome fortune. She was a Protestant dissenter, and placed her son under the care of a dissenting minister, at whose academy he made some progress in several branches of learning.

The young man discovered a very strong inclination for trade, and he was therefore apprenticed to a reputable dealer in London, to whom he proved a faithful and industrious servant. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he purchased the place of Clerk to the Court of Requests, in the borough of Southwark, which produced an income of about three hundred pounds a year.

He soon afterwards embarked in the wine trade, which

he successfully pursued some years; and, being generally considered as a man of large property, many persons, who supported their credit by the circulation of notes of hand and bills of exchange, applied for his endorsements, knowing that his name would give their paper currency, and he was so imprudent as to make himself liable to the payment of fourteen hundred pounds.

The persons with whom Mr Orton had engaged in such imprudent connections being declared bankrupts, he became answerable to the holders of the notes. Having debts of his own to the amount of nine hundred pounds, and the notes for fourteen hundred to discharge within a fortnight, he formed the resolution of committing forgery.

A friendship had long subsisted between Mr Orton and Captain Bishop, who, upon leaving England, had entrusted him with a letter of attorney, authorising him to receive his pay and dividend of bank stock.

He forged two letters of attorney, by means of which he received a thousand pounds at the bank. It must be observed that his intention was not ultimately to defraud the Captain, but merely to support his credit till remittances from his correspondents should enable him to replace the money; and he flattered himself in the opinion that if, through disappointments, he should be unable to restore the property before the Captain's return, he would readily excuse his conduct.

Captain Bishop, being at Portsmouth in August, 1766, wrote to Mr Orton, mentioning that his ship was coming round to Woolwich, and that he was desirous of an interview as soon as possible after his arrival. Orton wrote the Captain word that he would certainly meet him at Woolwich, and, having some business to negotiate at Yarmouth, he set out on horseback for that place.

On his return to London he left his horse at an inn near Charing Cross and went into St James's Park, where he accidentally met Captain Bishop, whose ship had arrived at Woolwich on the preceding day. They supped together at the Belle Sauvage, on Ludgate Hill; and the next day Mr Orton dined with the Captain on board his ship, at Woolwich.

Before leaving Woolwich, Mr Orton intended to inform the Captain of his conduct with regard to the money he had received at the bank, but he declined introducing the subject upon learning that the Captain meant to remain at Woolwich till his ship was cleared, which he expected would be in not less than a week.

Mr Orton now went a second time to Yarmouth, and, on his return in four days, found a letter at his house from Captain Bishop, signifying that, having received his pay, he had more money by him than he had occasion for, and therefore desired Mr Orton to meet him at the Belle Sauvage and receive a sum in order to dispose of it in such a manner as he should judge would prove most advantageous. They met according to appointment, and Mr Orton was about to mention the forged letters of attorney when the Captain said he was under the necessity of immediately attending Admiral Knowles; and they parted with every appearance of friendship, mutually promising to meet the following evening.

The next night he had not been in the house where he had appointed to meet Captain Bishop more than half-an-hour when he was arrested for two hundred pounds at the suit of the Captain, and immediately conducted to a spunging-house. He was the next day examined in the presence of some of the directors of the bank, and committed to Newgate in order for trial.

The violent agitation of spirits which this unfortunate man experienced when he was charged with the commission of forgery will not admit of description. Being brought to trial, his guilt was proved by indisputable evidence; and he was sentenced to be executed.

While he remained in Newgate his behaviour was perfectly consistent with his unhappy circumstances. He was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning-coach; and, after he had employed some time in devout prayer, the sentence of the law was put in force, and his body was delivered to his friends.

Samuel Orton was executed at Tyburn, on the 14th of January, 1767.

JOHN WILLIAMSON

A deliberate and cruel Murderer, who tortured and starved his Wife to Death. Executed in Moorfields, 19th of January, 1767

WILLIAMSON was the son of people in but indifferent circumstances, who put him apprentice to a shoemaker. When he came to be a journeyman he pursued his business with industry, and in a short time he married an honest and sober woman, by whom he had three children. His wife dying, he continued some time a widower, maintaining himself and his children in a decent manner.

At length he contracted an acquaintance with a young woman so deficient in point of intellect that it may be said she bordered upon idiocy. Her relations had bequeathed her money sufficient for her maintenance, and this circumstance induced Williamson to make proposals of marriage, which she accepted. Being asked in church, the banns were forbidden by the gentleman appointed guardian to the unhappy woman.

Williamson having procured a licence, the marriage was solemnised; and in consequence thereof he received the money that was in the hands of the guardian. About three weeks after the marriage he cruelly beat his wife, threw water over her, and otherwise treated her with great severity; and this kind of brutality he frequently repeated. At length he fastened the miserable creature's hands behind her with handcuffs, and, by means of a rope passed through a staple, drew them so tight above her head that only the tips of her toes touched the ground.

On one side of the closet wherein she was confined was now and then put a small piece of bread-and-butter, so that she could just touch it with her mouth; and she was allowed daily a small portion of water.

She once remained a whole month without being released from this miserable condition; but during that time she

occasionally received assistance from a female lodger in the house and a little girl, Williamson's daughter by his former wife.

The girl having once released the poor sufferer, the inhuman villain beat her with great severity. When the father was abroad the child frequently gave the unhappy woman a stool to stand upon, by which means her pain was in some degree abated. This circumstance being discovered by Williamson, he beat the girl in a most barbarous manner, and threatened that if she again offended in the same way he would punish her with still greater severity.

Williamson released his wife on the Sunday preceding the day on which she died, and at dinner-time cut her some meat, of which, however, she ate only a very small quantity. This partial indulgence he supposed would prove a favourable circumstance for him, in case of being accused of murder.

Her hands being greatly swelled, through the coldness of the weather and the pain occasioned by the handcuffs, she begged to be permitted to go near the fire, and, the daughter joining in her request, Williamson complied. When she had sat a few minutes, Williamson, observing her throwing the vermin that swarmed upon her clothes into the fire, ordered her to "return to her kennel." Thereupon she returned to the closet, the door of which was then locked till next day, when she was found to be in a delirious state, in which she continued till the time of her death, which happened about two o'clock on the Tuesday morning.

The coroner's jury being summoned to sit on the body, and evidence being adduced to incriminate Williamson, he was committed to Newgate. At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey he was brought to trial before Lord Chief Baron Parker, and sentenced to death. From the time of his commitment to prison till the time of his execution he behaved in a very decent and penitent manner. The gallows was placed on the rising ground opposite Chiswell Street, in Moorfields. After he had sung a psalm and prayed some time, with an appearance of great devotion,

he was turned off, amidst an amazing concourse of people. His body was conveyed to Surgeons' Hall for dissection, and his children were placed in Cripplegate Workhouse.

ELIZABETH BROWNRIGG

Executed at Tyburn, 14th of September, 1767, for torturing her Female Apprentices to Death

ELIZABETH BROWNRIGG was married to James Brownrigg, a plumber, who, after being seven years in Greenwich, came to London and took a house in Flower-de-Luce Court, Fleet Street, where he carried on a considerable share of business, and had a little house at Islington for an occasional retreat.

She had been the mother of sixteen children, and, having practised midwifery, was appointed by the overseers of the poor of St Dunstan's parish to take care of the poor women in the workhouse; which duty she performed to the entire satisfaction of her employers.

Mary Mitchell, a poor girl, of the precinct of Whitefriars, was put apprentice to Mrs Brownrigg in the year 1765; and at about the same time Mary Jones, one of the children of the Foundling Hospital, was likewise placed with her in the same capacity; and she had other apprentices. As Mrs Brownrigg received pregnant women to lie-in privately, these girls were taken with a view of saving the expense of women-servants. At first the poor orphans were treated with some degree of civility; but this was soon changed for the most savage barbarity. Having laid Mary Jones across two chairs in the kitchen, she whipped her with such wanton cruelty that she was occasionally obliged to desist through mere weariness. This treatment was frequently repeated; and Mrs Brownrigg used to throw water on her when she had done whipping her, and sometimes she would dip her head into a pail of water. The room appointed for the girl to sleep in adjoined the passage leading to the street door, and, as she had received many

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ELIZABETH BROWNRIGG.

wounds on her head, shoulders and various parts of her body, she determined not to bear such treatment any longer if she could effect her escape.

Observing that the key was left in the street door when the family went to bed, she opened the door cautiously one morning and escaped into the street. Thus freed from her horrid confinement, she repeatedly inquired her way to the Foundling Hospital till she found it, and was admitted, after describing in what manner she had been treated, and showing the bruises she had received. The child having been examined by a surgeon, who found her wounds to be of a most alarming nature, the governors of the hospital ordered Mr Plumbtree, their solicitor, to write to James Brownrigg, threatening a prosecution if he did not give a proper reason for the severities exercised towards the child.

No notice of this having been taken, and the governors of the hospital thinking it imprudent to indict at common law, the girl was discharged, in consequence of an application to the Chamberlain of London. The other girl, Mary Mitchell, continued with her mistress for the space of a year, during which she was treated with equal cruelty, and she also resolved to quit her service. Having escaped out of the house, she was met in the street by the younger son of Brownrigg, who forced her to return home, where her sufferings were greatly aggravated on account of her elopement. In the interim the overseers of the precinct of Whitefriars bound Mary Clifford to Brownrigg; it was not long before she experienced similar cruelties to those inflicted on the other poor girls, and possibly still more severe. She was frequently tied up naked and beaten with a hearth-broom, a horsewhip or a cane till she was absolutely speechless. This poor girl having a natural infirmity, the mistress would not permit her to lie in a bed, but placed her on a mat in a coal-hole that was remarkably cold; however, after some time, a sack and a quantity of straw formed her bed, instead of the mat. During her confinement in this wretched situation she had nothing to subsist on but bread and water; and her covering, during the night, consisted

only of her own clothes, so that she sometimes lay almost perished with cold.

On a particular occasion, when she was almost starving with hunger, she broke open a cupboard in search of food, but found it empty; and on another occasion she broke down some boards, in order to procure a draught of water. Though she was thus pressed for the humblest necessaries of life, Mrs Brownrigg determined to punish her with rigour for the means she had taken to supply herself with them. On this she caused the girl to strip to the skin, and during the course of a whole day, while she remained naked, she repeatedly beat her with the butt-end of a whip.

In the course of this most inhuman treatment a jack-chain was fixed round her neck, the end of which was fastened to the yard door, and then it was pulled as tight as possible without strangling her. A day being passed in the practice of these savage barbarities, the girl was remanded to the coal-hole at night, her hands being tied behind her, and the chain still remaining about her neck.

The husband being obliged to find his wife's apprentices in wearing apparel, they were repeatedly stripped naked, and kept so for whole days, if their garments happened to be torn. Sometimes Mrs Brownrigg, when resolved on uncommon severity, used to tie their hands with a cord and draw them up to a water-pipe which ran across the ceiling in the kitchen; but that giving way, she desired her husband to fix a hook in the beam, through which a cord was drawn, and, their arms being extended, she used to horsewhip them till she was weary, and till the blood flowed at every stroke.

The elder son one day directed Mary Clifford to put up a half-tester bedstead, but the poor girl was unable to do it; on which he beat her till she could no longer support his severity; and at another time, when the mother had been whipping her in the kitchen till she was absolutely tired, the son renewed the savage treatment. Mrs Brownrigg would sometimes seize the poor girl by the cheeks and, forcing the skin down violently with her fingers, cause the blood to gush from her eyes.

Mary Clifford, unable to bear these repeated severities, complained of her hard treatment to a French lady who lodged in the house; and she having represented the impropriety of such behaviour to Mrs Brownrigg, the inhuman monster flew at the girl and cut her tongue in two places with a pair of scissors.

On the morning of the 13th of July this barbarous woman went into the kitchen and, after obliging Mary Clifford to strip to the skin, drew her up to the staple; and though her body was an entire sore, from former bruises, yet this wretch renewed her cruelties with her accustomed severity.

After whipping her till the blood streamed down her body she let her down, and made her wash herself in a tub of cold water, Mary Mitchell, the other poor girl, being present during this transaction. While Clifford was washing herself Mrs Brownrigg struck her on the shoulders, already sore with former bruises, with the butt-end of a whip; and she treated the child in this manner five times in the same day.

At length the parish authorities were persuaded to take action, and Brownrigg was conveyed to Wood Street Compter; but his wife and son made their escape, taking with them a gold watch and some money. Mr Brownrigg was carried before Alderman Crossby, who committed him, and ordered the girls to be taken to St Bartholomew's Hospital, where Mary Clifford died within a few days. The coroner's inquest was summoned, and found a verdict of wilful murder against James and Elizabeth Brownrigg, and John, their son.

In the meantime Mrs Brownrigg and her son shifted from place to place in London, bought clothes in Rag Fair to disguise themselves, and then went to Wandsworth, where they took lodgings in the house of Mr Dunbar, who kept a chandler's shop.

This chandler, happening to read a newspaper on the 15th of August, saw an advertisement which so clearly described his lodgers that he had no doubt but they were the murderers. A constable went to the house, and the mother and son were conveyed to London. At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey the father, mother and son were indicted, when

Elizabeth Brownrigg, after a trial of eleven hours, was found guilty of murder, and ordered for execution; but the man and his son, being acquitted of the higher charge, were detained, to take their trials for a misdemeanour, of which they were convicted, and imprisoned for the space of six months.

After sentence of death was passed on Mrs Brownrigg she was attended by a clergyman, to whom she confessed the enormity of her crime, and acknowledged the justice of the sentence by which she had been condemned. The parting between her and her husband and son, on the morning of her execution, was affecting. The son fell on his knees, and she bent over him and embraced him; while the husband knelt on the other side.

On her way to the fatal tree the people expressed their abhorrence of her crime in terms which testified their detestation of her cruelty. After execution her body was put into a hackney-coach, conveyed to Surgeons' Hall, dissected and anatomised; and her skeleton was hung up in Surgeons' Hall.

WILLIAM GUEST

Executed at Tyburn, 14th of October, 1767, for High Treason, in diminishing the Current Coin of the Realm

THIS man's crime was aggravated by a breach of public trust. He was the son of a clergyman of unblemished character, of the city of Worcester, who placed him apprentice to a genteel business.

He then came to London and took a shop in Holborn, where he carried on business for some years, with the usual success of trade. His father's good name assisted him in procuring a clerkship in the Bank of England, and there the constant handling of gold shook his integrity.

He took a house in Broad Street Buildings, in a room in the upper part of which he used to work. Having procured a curious machine for milling guineas, not unlike a machine made use of by mathematical-instrument makers, he used to take guineas from his drawer at the bank, file them, and

then return them to the bank and take out guineas of full weight in their stead. Of their filings he made ingots, which he sold to an assayer, who, on his trial, deposed that the filings were of the same standard as our guineas.

The cashier of the bank, having his suspicions aroused, sent Mr Sewallis and Mr Humberton, servants of the bank, with proper officers to search Mr Guest's house in Broad Street Buildings. In a room up two pair of stairs there stood a mahogany nest of drawers, in which, on being broken open, were found a vice, files, and an instrument proper for milling the edges of guineas.

Mr Throughton, a jeweller, deposed he had sold two bars of gold for the prisoner, one of which weighed forty-six and the other forty-eight ounces.

The circumstances above mentioned were deemed to adduce such evidence of guilt that the jury did not hesitate to convict Mr Guest; the consequence of which was, that sentence of death was passed on him.

After conviction this malefactor made the most serious preparations for the awful change that awaited him. Consistent with the plan respecting persons convicted of high treason, he was conveyed to the place of execution on a sledge. His dress consisted of a suit of mourning and a club-wig. At Tyburn, the place of execution, he appeared to exhibit every mark of penitence and resignation. He prayed devoutly, and when he was turned off, and his body had hung the accustomed time, it was delivered to his friends to be buried.

JAMES SAMPSON

A treacherous and base Villain, executed at Tyburn, 11th of March, 1768, for robbing and setting fire to his Benefactor's House

EARLY in life Sampson gave proofs of an extraordinary genius for drawing, to which his friends afforded proper encouragement, and his progress in the art was exceedingly rapid. The youth's uncommon talents being

mentioned to the Duke of Richmond, his Grace engaged him in his service on very liberal terms, and employed masters properly qualified to afford every possible improvement to his fine genius. Afterwards the Duke warmly recommended Sampson to the patronage of the Right Honourable General Conway, who appointed him one of the draughtsmen to the Tower.

The greatest part of his time that was not engaged in a necessary attention to the duties of his office Sampson employed in making copies of the natural curiosities in the British Museum and in the conversation of learned and ingenious men, by whom that celebrated library was frequented; and he was so highly esteemed, both by the Duke of Richmond and General Conway, that he had free access to them on all occasions. Having married an upper servant in the General's family, he appeared to live in a state of great felicity; but unfortunately he maintained an illicit intercourse with some women of debauched principles, whose extravagances involved him in many embarrassments.

Being allowed the liberty of amusing himself in the General's library, he learned that money and papers of consequence were kept there; and this tempted him to the fatal resolution of robbing his benefactor and setting fire to the house, as a means of covering up his guilt. Having concealed himself in the house, he waited till he supposed the family had retired to rest, and then entered the library, where he stole property to a considerable amount and set fire to some of the furniture.

About six in the morning the General was alarmed by the cry of "Fire!" and perceived smoke issuing from the library; but he would not permit the door to be opened till the engines arrived, lest the flames should burst out and communicate to the other parts of the building. The engines being ready to play, he directed the firemen to use their endeavours to secure a writing-table that stood in a corner of the room, several bank-notes being deposited in a drawer thereof. This table was brought out, part of it being burned, and the drawer open in which the bank-notes had

been deposited. The General put all the papers he found in the drawer into his pocket.

When the confusion occasioned by the supposed accident had subsided, the General examined the papers taken out of the drawer, and missing a bank-note of five hundred pounds, and four of one hundred pounds each, concluded that the room had been fired for the purpose of concealing the robbery.

All the domestics in the house had lived many years in the General's service, and he had the firmest confidence in their fidelity; but in order to secure his property, and discover the author of the horrid fact, which he strongly suspected to have been committed by some person well acquainted with his house, he made application to the bank, where he learned that the note for five hundred pounds had been already changed for others of smaller value; and, from the description of the person who had changed it, his suspicions were fixed on Sampson.

It was now determined that Mr Camp, who had received the note, and Mr Lambert, who had delivered the smaller ones on Camp's ticket, should attend at the Duke of Richmond's house at an appointed hour.

The Duke sent a servant to Sampson's lodgings, desiring to see him on business; and he presently attended, and entered into conversation on different subjects with his Grace and General Conway. The above-mentioned clerks of the bank were introduced, and, immediately recognising the person of Sampson, a signal was made that had been before agreed on; in consequence of which the General accused Sampson of the robbery and setting fire to the library. For some time he steadily denied the charge, but, finding no possibility of confuting the evidence of Camp and Lambert, he at length confessed all the particulars of his guilt.

Sampson's lodgings at Pimlico were searched, and the two notes received at the bank and the four stolen from the drawer of the writing-table were found. The delinquent, being taken before Sir John Fielding, was committed to

Newgate in order for trial, which came on at the following sessions at the Old Bailey, when he was convicted, and sentenced to be hanged.

While he remained in Newgate he regularly attended prayers in the chapel, and on the morning of his execution he received the Sacrament. The passage of carriages being obstructed by the pavement being broken up in Holborn, Sampson was conveyed through Smithfield, Cow Cross, Turnmill Street and the King's Road to Tyburn, where he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and, after some time employed in prayer, suffered the punishment due to his offences, on 11th March, 1768.

JOHN WILKES, Esq., M.P.

Whose Arrest and Conviction for writing Seditious and Blasphemous Pamphlets led to Riots in London in 1768

THE year 1768 will ever be remembered in the annals of English history, on account of the murders and mischief committed by a deluded mob, stimulated by the writings and opposition to the Government of John Wilkes, Esq., an alderman of London, and Member of Parliament for Aylesbury. The most scandalous and offensive of his writings were in a periodical publication called *The North Briton*, No. 45, and a pamphlet entitled *An Essay on Woman*.[1]

The North Briton was of a political nature, the other a piece of obscenity: the one calculated to set the people against the Government, the other to corrupt their morals.

Among the members who found themselves more personally attacked in *The North Briton* was Samuel Martin, Esq., Member for Camelford. This gentleman found his character, as Secretary of the Treasury, so vilified, that he called the writer to the field of honour.

Wilkes had already been engaged in a duel with Lord

[1] This *Essay on Woman* was a parody on Pope's sublime work, called *An Essay on Man.*

Talbot, and escaped unhurt; but Mr Martin shot him in the body, of which wound he lay in imminent danger for several days, and was confined to his house for some weeks.

The Attorney-General filed informations against Wilkes as author of *The North Briton*, No. 45,[1] and a pamphlet, entitled *An Essay on Woman*. On these charges he was apprehended, and committed as prisoner to the Tower, but was soon admitted to bail.

His papers were forcibly seized, for which he charged the Secretaries of State with a robbery, and which was afterwards, by the Court of King's Bench, determined to have been illegal.

Before his trial came on, Mr Wilkes fled to France, but under the pretext of restoring his health, which had suffered from his wound and the harassing measures taken against him by the Secretaries of State, Lord Egremont and Lord Halifax. No sooner was he out of the kingdom than they proceeded to outlawry, dismissed him of his command as Colonel of the Buckinghamshire Militia, and expelled him from his seat in Parliament.

In a few months Mr Wilkes returned to London and gave notice that he would, on a certain day, surrender himself on the informations filed against him. He then appeared in his place as an alderman at Guildhall; and on his return

[1] The paper entitled *The North Briton* was ordered to be burned by the common executioner, at the Royal Exchange. Mr Alderman Harley, one of the sheriffs of London, attending, in his official capacity, to see this carried into execution, was assaulted and wounded by the mob. A man of the name of John Franklin was seized as one of the offenders and committed to Newgate. On the day of the conviction of Wilkes he was tried for this outrage at the Old Bailey and found guilty. When the trial was ended, the worthy alderman addressed the Court on behalf of the prisoner. He said that, for his part, he had forgiven the affront to his own person; that justice required a prosecution: it had been, by the conviction of the offender, in part satisfied, and therefore he hoped the Court would mitigate the punishment. The Court complied with the prosecutor's humane request, and sentenced the prisoner to only three years' imprisonment, to pay a fine of six shillings and eightpence, and to find security for his good behaviour for one year.

the mob took the horses from his carriage and dragged it to his house, crying: "Wilkes and Liberty!"

On the 21st of February, 1764, the trial of Mr Wilkes for the libels before mentioned came on before Lord Mansfield, and on both he was found guilty.

More than two years were occupied in law proceedings on the validity of his apprehension, the seizure of his papers and the outlawry. Meanwhile Wilkes's popularity and the outrages of the mob daily increased. Finally he was committed to the King's Bench Prison, where he was visited by many of his friends, and the prison was surrounded by a vast concourse of people, who, it was feared, would have offered some outrage; but all remained quiet until night, when they pulled up the rails which enclosed the footway, with which they made a bonfire. They also obliged the inhabitants of the borough of Southwark to illuminate their houses; nor would they disperse until the arrival of a captain's guard of soldiers.

From this time a mob constantly surrounded the King's Bench Prison for several days. At length the justices appeared, followed by the military: the Riot Act was read and, the mob not dispersing, the soldiers were ordered to fire upon them. Many were killed, and among them some passengers, at a considerable distance from the scene of confusion.

On the 28th of April, 1768, the case of the outlawry was finally argued in the Court of King's Bench. Serjeant Glynn, on the part of Mr Wilkes, greatly added to his reputation as a sound lawyer, and was ably answered by the Attorney-General; but the judges, though they somewhat differed in their reasons on the illegality of the outlawry, were unanimous in their opinion that it should be reversed. This was a great point obtained by Mr Wilkes; and, obnoxious as he was to Government, the determination, consistent with law, was upright and honourable in the learned Bench.

Mr Wilkes was not, however, destined to clear himself by this single point gained, for the Attorney-General imme-

diately moved that judgment might be passed upon him on his several convictions. The prisoner's counsel upon this moved an arrest of judgment, and the Court appointed the next Thursday to hear the arguments thereon.

On the day appointed for that purpose the last effort was made to get rid of the remainder of the proceedings against Mr Wilkes. The arguments for an arrest of judgment, though carried on with great ingenuity, would not hold, and he was found legally convicted of writing the libels. For that in *The North Briton* he was fined five hundred pounds and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the King's Bench Prison; and for *The Essay on Woman*, five hundred pounds more, a further imprisonment of twelve months, and to find security for his good behaviour for seven years.

Previous to his imprisonment Mr Wilkes was elected Member of Parliament for Middlesex, when the mob proceeded to various acts of outrage. They broke the windows of Lord Bute, the Prime Minister, and of the Mansion House, even that of the Lady Mayoress's bedchamber, and forced the inhabitants of the metropolis to illuminate their houses, crying out, "Wilkes and Liberty!" and all who refused to echo it back were knocked down.

The outrages of the populace were too many to be enumerated; several innocent people were killed and numbers wounded. They broke windows without number, destroyed furniture, and even insulted Royalty.

The metropolis, as well as various other parts of the kingdom, had not been so convulsed with riots and partial insurrections since the Civil Wars as during the short time of Wilkes's popularity.

These disgraceful tumults, and the lenity or, as some would have it, the timidity of Government, spread disaffection into all classes of mechanics, who, thinking the time at hand when they might exact what wages they pleased, and perhaps beyond their masters' profits, struck work.

JAMES GIBSON

A Gentleman, executed at Tyburn, 23rd of March, 1768, for Forgery on the Bank of England

THIS gentleman had received a liberal education, and was bound clerk to Mr Francis, an attorney of eminence, residing in Lincoln's Inn. His good behaviour and the rapid improvement he made in the profession of the law induced his master, on the expiration of his articles, to take him into partnership.

In the early part of life he had married a young lady, with whom he received a genteel fortune, and by whom he had five children. Notwithstanding these tender pledges of his love, he deserted his wife and family for the embraces of a mistress who had been kept by a Scottish nobleman, leaving them to suffer the extremes of want while he was enjoying the luxuries of life.

Mr Francis's business was of an extensive nature, and was principally transacted by Gibson, who gave proof of the most consummate abilities in his profession. Among other engagements, Mr Francis was employed in a cause respecting an estate in Chancery, on which an injunction was issued; and a person was appointed to receive the rents of the estate till the Lord Chancellor should make his final decree. In the interim, Gibson, having reduced himself by a profuse mode of living, forged the handwriting of the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery in a suit which he was soliciting for Robert Lee, Esq., and others, executors to the late Sir G. Brown, Bart., Robert Pringle and others, in consequence of which he received above nine hundred pounds. Discovery of this transaction being made in a short time, Gibson was taken into custody, and lodged in Newgate, in September, 1766. When brought to trial for the forgery at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges. From this time Gibson continued in Newgate till January, 1768 (upwards

of fifteen months), and it was the prevailing opinion that no further notice would be taken of the affair. However, Gibson, by repeated applications, urged that this case might be determined by the judges; and at length, in Hilary Term, 1768, the learned Bench made a final decision on his case, importing that it came within the meaning of the law. Consequently he received sentence of death, and was removed into the cells of Newgate. After sentence his behaviour was in every way becoming to his melancholy situation, and he reflected with much sorrow on his unkindness to his wife and family. He was carried to execution in a mourning-coach, and requested that his fellow-sufferer, Benjamin Payne, a footpad, whom he saw placed in a cart, might accompany him, which the sheriff refused.

SARAH METYARD AND SARAH MORGAN METYARD, HER DAUGHTER

Executed at Tyburn, 19th of July, 1768, for the Cruel Murders of Parish Apprentices

SARAH METYARD was a milliner, and the daughter her assistant, in Bruton Street, Hanover Square, London. In the year 1758 the mother had five apprentice girls bound to her from different parish workhouses, among whom were Anne Naylor and her sister.

Anne Naylor, being of a sickly constitution, was not able to do so much work as the other apprentices about the same age, and therefore she became the more immediate object of the fury of the barbarous women, whose repeated acts of cruelty at length occasioned the unhappy girl to abscond. Being brought back, she was confined in an upper apartment, and allowed each day no other sustenance than a small piece of bread and a little water.

Seizing an opportunity of escaping from her confinement, unperceived she got into the street, and ran to a milk-carrier, whom she begged to protect her, saying that if she returned she must certainly perish, through the want of

food and severe treatment she daily received. Being soon missed, she was followed by the younger Metyard, who seized her by the neck, forced her into the house, and threw her upon the bed in the room where she had been confined, and she was then seized by the old woman, who held her down while the daughter beat her with the handle of a broom in a most cruel manner.

They afterwards put her into a back room on the second storey, tied a cord round her waist, and her hands behind her, and fastened her to the door in such a manner that it was impossible for her either to sit or lie down. She was compelled to remain in this situation for three successive days; but they permitted her to go to bed at the usual hours at night. Having received no kind of nutriment for three days and two nights, her strength was so exhausted that, being unable to walk upstairs, she crept to the garret, where she lay on her hands and feet.

While she remained tied up on the second floor the other apprentices were ordered to work in an adjoining apartment, that they might be deterred from disobedience by being witnesses to the unhappy girl's sufferings; but they were enjoined, on the penalty of being subjected to equal severity, against affording her any kind of relief.

On the fourth day she faltered in speech, and presently afterwards expired. The other girls, seeing the whole weight of her body supported by the strings which confined her to the door, were greatly alarmed, and called out: "Miss Sally! Miss Sally! Nanny does not move." The daughter then came upstairs, saying: "If she does not move, I will make her move"; and then beat the deceased on the head with the heel of a shoe.

Perceiving no signs of life, she called to her mother, who came upstairs and ordered the strings that confined the deceased to be cut; she then laid the body across her lap and directed one of the apprentices where to find a bottle with some hartshorn drops.

When the child had brought the drops, she and the other girls were ordered to go downstairs; and the mother and

daughter, being convinced that the object of their barbarity was dead, conveyed the body into the garret. They related to the other apprentices that Nanny had been in a fit, but was perfectly recovered, adding that she was locked into the garret lest she should again run away; and, in order to give an air of plausibility to their tale, at noon the daughter carried a plate of meat upstairs, saying it was for Nanny's dinner.

They locked the body of the deceased in a box on the fourth day after the murder, and, having left the garret door open and the street door on the jar, one of the apprentices was told to call Nanny down to dinner, and to tell her that, if she promised to behave well in future, she would be no longer confined. Upon the return of the child, she said Nanny was not above-stairs; and after a great parade of searching every part of the house they reflected upon her as being of an intractable disposition and pretended she had run away.

The sister of the deceased, who was apprenticed to the same inhuman mistress, mentioned to a lodger in the house that she was persuaded her sister was dead; observing that it was not probable she had gone away, since parts of her apparel still remained in the garret. The suspicions of this girl coming to the knowledge of the inhuman wretches, they, with a view of preventing a discovery, cruelly murdered her, and secreted the body.

The body of Anne remained in the box two months, during which time the garret door was kept locked, lest the offensive smell should lead to a discovery. The stench became so powerful that they judged it prudent to remove the remains of the unhappy victim of their barbarity; and therefore, on the evening of the 25th of December, they cut the body in pieces, and tied the head and trunk up in one cloth and the limbs in another, excepting one hand, a finger belonging to which had been amputated before death, and that they resolved to burn.

When the apprentices had gone to bed, the old woman put the hand into the fire, saying: "The fire tells no tales."

She intended to consume the entire remains of the unfortunate girl by fire but, afraid that the smell would give rise to suspicion, changed that design, and took the bundles to the gully-hole in Chick Lane and endeavoured to throw the parts of the mangled corpse over the wall into the common sewer; but being unable to effect that, she left them among the mud and water that was collected before the grate of the sewer.

Some pieces of the body were discovered about twelve o'clock by the watchman, and he mentioned the circumstance to the constable of the night. The constable applied to one of the overseers of the parish, by whose direction the parts of the body were collected and taken to the watch-house. On the following day the matter was communicated to Mr Umfreville, the coroner, who examined the pieces found by the watchman; but he supposed them to be parts of a corpse taken from a churchyard for the use of some surgeon, and declined to summon a jury.

Four years elapsed before the discovery of these horrid murders, which at length happened in the following manner. Continual disagreements prevailed between the mother and daughter; and, though the latter had now arrived at the age of maturity, she was often beaten, and otherwise treated with severity. Thus provoked, she sometimes threatened to destroy herself, and at others to give information against her mother as a murderer.

At last information concerning the affair was given to the overseers of Tottenham parish, and mother and daughter were committed to the Gatehouse. At the ensuing Old Bailey sessions they were both sentenced to be executed on the following Monday, and then to be conveyed to Surgeons' Hall for dissection.

The mother, being in a fit when she was put into the cart, lay at her length till she came to the place of execution, when she was raised up, and means were used for her recovery, but without effect, so that she departed this life in a state of insensibility. From the time of leaving Newgate to the moment of her death the daughter wept incessantly.

After hanging the usual time the bodies were conveyed in a hearse to Surgeons' Hall, where they were exposed to the curiosity of the public, and then dissected.

ELIZABETH RICHARDSON

Executed at Tyburn, 21st of December, 1768, for murdering an Attorney-at-Law, in Symond's Inn, Chancery Lane

THIS unhappy woman was seduced from the precepts of virtue and honour at an early period of life, and, after subsisting some years on the wages of casual prostitution, was taken into keeping by Mr Pimlot, an attorney-at-law, who had chambers in Symond's Inn.

Whether she had cause for jealousy is uncertain, but she was inflamed with that passion to a degree of violence, and frequently went to his chambers in the expectation of finding him engaged with some other woman.

One Sunday evening Mr Pimlot was engaged with some friends at a house in Fleet Street; and Richardson, going to his chambers and finding him not there, determined to wait till his return. About twelve o'clock Mr Pimlot entered his chambers, without being perceived by the woman, and went to bed.

About half-an-hour afterwards she in a most riotous manner insisted upon being admitted, declaring, with horrid imprecations, that she would not depart till she had seen Mr Pimlot, who for some time made no answer. This exasperating her to still greater outrage, she gave vent to her passion in the most profane language, and, after breaking one of the panes of the window, went towards the passage leading to Chancery Lane, but turning back, she was met by Mr Pimlot, who gave her into custody of the watch. She was no sooner taken into custody than, with a sharp-pointed penknife, with a blade about two inches long, she struck Mr Pimlot under the left breast. The watchman said: "You break the peace, madam, and I must take you to the watch-house." Immediately after this Mr Pimlot, taking the knife from the

wound, said, in a faint and tremulous voice: "Here, watchman, take this knife; she has stabbed me."

Mr Pimlot proceeded to the watch-house, being followed by the constable and his prisoner. He sat down in the constable's chair, and on opening his waistcoat the blood was seen issuing from his wound. Leaning down his head, he presently expired, without speaking. The knife was examined, and blood appeared upon the blade.

When she perceived the blood issuing from Mr Pimlot's wound she clasped her hands and exclaimed: "What have I done! Oh, Mr Wilson, it was I that did this shocking deed: instantly send for a surgeon, send for a surgeon! I have murdered my dear Pimlot." She was immediately sent to New Prison; and her tears and other passionate expressions of sorrow proved her to be deeply penetrated by affliction for the crime she had committed.

A watchman was sent for Mr Minors, a surgeon, in Chancery Lane; but he being in bed, two of his pupils accompanied the watchman. Upon their arrival they found the gentleman dead.

On the following day the body was opened by Mr Minors, who found that the heart was penetrated, and that the wound exactly corresponded with the figure of the knife. The coroner's jury being summoned, a verdict of wilful murder was found against the prisoner, who was brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey; and being found guilty, she was sentenced to be executed on the following Monday. After her body had hung the usual time, it was carried to Surgeons' Hall for dissection.

JAMES ATTAWAY AND RICHARD BAILEY

Executed at Tyburn, 4th of July, 1770, for committing a Burglary after tying up the Butler

THE crime for which these men so justly suffered was committed in a manner most artful and daring.

About nine o'clock one evening they went to the house of Thomas Le Merr, Esq., in Bedford Row, London, a

public and genteel street. They had received information that Mr Le Merr was in the country. On their knocking at the door it was opened by a footman, to whom Bailey delivered a letter, saying that it was for his master. Before the servant could answer, Attaway, another daring ruffian who had escaped justice, rushed in, shut the street door, and stabbed him in the belly with a dagger. They then drew cords from their pockets, tied the bleeding man's hands behind his back, and dragged him downstairs into the kitchen, unloosed his hands, and ordered him to light a candle, though, being summer, it was not dark. This done, regardless of his wound, which he begged time to bind up, they again tied his hands behind him, bringing the rope first about his neck, and then across his face in such a manner that it went through his mouth, which it kept open, and then made it fast behind. Thus bound, they dragged him into a cellar and bolted the door.

In a few minutes one of the villains returned and asked him if he was fast. Being answered, as well as the poor man could speak, that he was secure enough, they broke open the pantry, where the plate chest was kept, forced the lock, and deliberately packed up its contents.

In the meantime the bound man gnawed the rope in his mouth, and soon liberated himself. He then forced open the door which confined him and got into the area, over which was a skylight; and, apprehensive that he was bleeding to death, he made an effort to climb up a pipe to get through it and give an alarm. Making a last exertion he succeeded, and, dragging the rope after him, got to the stables behind the house, and called for help as loudly as his almost exhausted strength would permit. Five or six grooms immediately came to his assistance, and seized the robbers as they were coming out of the house, thus fortunately saving the poor fellow's life and Mr Le Merr's property.

On this evidence the two men were found guilty, and were hanged at Tyburn, on the 4th of July, 1770.

PETER CONWAY AND MICHAEL RICHARDSON

Executed at Tyburn, 19th of July, 1770, for a Murder which was their first Essay in Crime

THESE men were two of a gang who had associated themselves for the purpose of plunder, and in their very first attempt committed murder; at which they were so terrified that they fled without rifling the pockets of the deceased.

On Saturday, the 26th of May, 1770, Richardson, Conway, and two men, named Jackson and Fox, went to the shop of Mr Robert Dun, in Prince's Square, near Ratcliff Highway, and purchased a pair of pistols. The above-mentioned Jackson was afterwards an evidence against his accomplices, but we do not learn that Fox was ever taken into custody.

Having purchased the pistols, they left them at the house of an acquaintance, named Thomas; after which they all went to the lodgings of Conway, where they spent the night. On the succeeding day (Sunday) they took a coach to Whitechapel, where they continued drinking till the dusk of the evening, when they went to Thomas's house for the pistols. Being unprovided with balls, they remained for a while in consultation what to substitute in their stead; and at length they cut a pewter spoon in pieces and loaded their pistols. This being done, Conway and Richardson went together, and the other two accompanied them, but at a short distance, that they might not appear to be a gang of ruffians. They met a gentleman's servant, whom they stopped; but, as he had no money, he was permitted to pass without further molestation.

It happened that, in the afternoon, Mr Venables, a butcher in Whitechapel, had been walking to Stepney with his neighbour, Mr Rogers, a carpenter, and they were returning to town when they were met by the villains above mentioned, a few minutes after they had parted from the gentleman's servant.

Mr Venables and Mr Rogers had the appearance of men from whom a considerable booty might be expected; whereupon Conway stopped the former and demanded his money. Instead of delivering it, Mr Venables, who was a robust man, twice knocked down Richardson and Fox; and they had no sooner recovered their legs than Richardson and Conway immediately fired their pistols, and the two unoffending passengers were killed on the spot. The villains hurried away towards Stepney, whence they went to Ratcliff Highway, and thence to Wapping, where they stopped a man and robbed him of eighteen shillings and his watch.

The bodies of the deceased were found in the road and conveyed to the watch-house, and a surgeon was sent for, who examined the wounds, and found that they had been made by pieces of pewter. On the following Wednesday Jackson was apprehended on suspicion of having been concerned in the commission of the murders. On his examination he gave information who were his accomplices; on which he was admitted an evidence for the Crown. A few days after Jackson was taken into custody Conway went to the shop of Mr Burtman, a pawnbroker in Jermyn Street, where he offered a watch in pledge. An advertisement in the newspaper describing the person of Conway having been read by Mr Burtman, the latter imagined that he was the man thus described; on which he gave a hint to one of his servants to sit by Conway while he (Burtman) examined the watch.

The servant, apprehending danger, whispered to his master that it was probable he had pistols in his possession. On which a person was sent out to request the attendance of the neighbours, with a view to prevent mischief. In the interim Conway, remarking that they whispered together, begged permission to retire to the vault, which he was readily allowed to do; but on his return he was taken into custody, and a coach was called to convey him to Sir John Fielding's office in Bow Street. When he was brought to the house of the magistrate he was confronted with Jackson, when they mutually endeavoured to incriminate each other; but

the circumstances against Conway were so very suspicious that Sir John Fielding did not hesitate to commit him to Newgate.

Richardson was likewise apprehended within five days after this commitment, and taken to Bow Street for examination, when the charge against him was so very strong that he was likewise committed to Newgate. At the next sessions at the Old Bailey the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and they were condemned to die.

After execution their bodies were cut down and conveyed to Bow Common, where they were put in chains and hung on a gibbet. More than fifty thousand visited the spot within the first five days. On Sunday, particularly, the place resembled a crowded fair; and many people made money by selling liquors and other provisions to the assembled multitudes.

PETER M'CLOUD

Hanged for Housebreaking, on 27th of May, 1771, before he had attained the Age of Sixteen

THIS ill-fated youth was the son of a poor man at Shields, near Newcastle, who brought him to London while he was quite a child. His father dying in a short time, the boy was left to the care or, perhaps, more properly speaking, to the neglect of his mother, who was a woman of very doubtful character, and was said to encourage young lads in the practice of theft.

M'Cloud had been connected with a lad named Younger, who had been concerned with him in a variety of irregular practices. At length M'Cloud engaged himself on board one of the colliers trading to Newcastle; and, while he was absent, Younger accused his mother of having been the receiver of stolen goods, the consequence of which was that she was apprehended, and brought to trial, but was discharged in defect of evidence.

When M'Cloud returned from his voyage, and learned in what manner his mother had been treated by Younger,

he made the most solemn vow of taking vengeance on him, whatever might be the consequence of such a proceeding.

That he might effect the ruin of his old companion in iniquity he surrendered himself to a magistrate, and gave information that he and Younger had been concerned in a robbery; on which the latter was soon taken into custody, and committed to Newgate, M'Cloud being admitted an evidence for the Crown against his presumed accomplice. But at the ensuing sessions M'Cloud was incapable of giving anything like evidence against his companion, who was of course acquitted, and the scheme of revenge was consequently frustrated.

It is no less astonishing than true that, notwithstanding what had passed, these young fellows soon renewed their former connection; so that whatever degree of malice might have harboured in the breast of M'Cloud, he seemed to have forgotten it in the wish to recommence his depredations on the public with his former accomplice in iniquity.

They now joined, with five or six other boys, in the practice of picking pockets, in which, for some time, they met with too much success; but their thefts were of the lowest kind, being principally confined to the stealing of handkerchiefs, in the practice of which they were frequently detected, but dismissed after receiving the discipline of the horse-pond. M'Cloud, in particular, had been so often dragged through horse-ponds, and exposed to the derision of the public, that he seemed to have lost all sense of shame, and his paltry gains by theft consoled him for the ignominy that attended it. He was three times tried at the Old Bailey for different offences, and had repeatedly the good fortune to escape.

At length, after a series of lessons in the picking of pockets, the gang of young villains determined to commence housebreaking, for which they were qualified not so much by their strength as by their artifice. They furnished themselves with a variety of tools proper for the wrenching of doors and window-shutters. Occasionally they would climb over roofs, enter at the garret windows of houses, and descend to the lower rooms to commit their robberies; and at other

times they would enter through any small opening that had been casually left unguarded.

At length three of the gang, of whom M'Cloud was one, repaired to Poplar, where they broke open the house of Joseph Hankey, Esq., in the dead of night. The family were all asleep; but the barking of a dog awoke one of the servants, who alarmed the rest, and begged them to oppose the intruders. Two of the thieves made an immediate escape, but M'Cloud was apprehended, and lodged in the watch-house.

On the following day he was carried before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate, and at the next sessions held at the Old Bailey he was brought to trial, capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.

When he arrived at the fatal tree he requested a person to beg that his mother would not unreasonably grieve at his death, as he had hopes that he was departing to the regions of eternal glory. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 27th of May, 1771, in the sixteenth year of his age.

JOHN EYRE, Esq.

Transported, in 1771, *for stealing Paper out of the Guildhall of the City of London*

JOHN EYRE was convicted at the Old Bailey for stealing paper out of the Guildhall.

On the 1st of September, 1771, this unfortunate gentleman, who was possessed of considerable property, surrendered himself to take his trial for that offence, to which he pleaded guilty, and was immediately put into the bail dock with other prisoners.

The recorder observed to his solicitor that he was unacquainted with his motive for using such a plea; but if anything was designed to be urged to the Court to soften his offence, he desired it might then be done, while there was a full court. The solicitor replied that his client meant nothing more than to throw himself upon the mercy of the Court.

He was instantly convicted, and sentenced to transportation.

On the 23rd of the same month one hundred and twenty prisoners, who had received a similar sentence, were conveyed on board a vessel bound for Virginia. Among them was Mr Eyre, who was indulged with a coach.

DR LEVI WEIL, ASHER WEIL, JACOB LAZARUS AND SOLOMON PORTER

A Gang of Robbers who committed Murder, and were executed at Tyburn, 9th of December, 1771

THIS daring violation of the law, which long roused the public indignation against the whole Jewish people, happened in the house of Mrs Hutchings, in King's Road, Chelsea, who was a farmer's widow, left by her husband in good circumstances, and with three children, two boys and a girl.

One Saturday evening, just as the Jewish Sabbath was ended, a numerous gang of Jews assembled in Chelsea Fields; and, having lurked about there until ten o'clock, at that hour went to the house of Mrs Hutchings and demanded admittance. The family had all retired to rest, with the exception of Mrs Hutchings and her two female servants, and, being alarmed by the unseasonable request of the applicants, they proceeded in a body to know their business. The door was no sooner opened, however, than a number of fellows—all of whom had the appearance of Jews—rushed in, seized the terrified females, and threatened them with instant death in the event of their offering any resistance. Mrs Hutchings, being a woman of considerable muscular strength, for a time opposed them; but her antagonists soon overpowered her, tied her petticoats over her head, and procceded to secure the servants. The girls having been tied back to back, five of the fellows proceeded to ransack the house, while the remainder of the gang remained below to guard the prisoners. Having visited

the rooms occupied by the children of Mrs Hutchings in turn, the ruffians proceeded to the apartment in which two men, employed as labourers on the farm, named John Slow and William Stone, were lying undisturbed by the outcry which had been raised below. It was soon determined that these men were likely to prove mischievous, and that they must be murdered; and Levi Weil, a Jewish physician, who was one of the party, and was the most sanguinary villain of his gang, aimed a blow at the breast of Stone, intended for his death, but which only stunned him. Slow started up, and the villains cried: "Shoot him! Shoot him!" A pistol was instantly fired at him, and he fell, exclaiming: "Lord have mercy on me! I am murdered!"

They dragged the wounded man out of the room to the head of the stairs; but in the meantime Stone, recovering his senses, jumped out of bed and escaped to the roof of the house, through the window. The thieves now descended and plundered the house of all the plate they could discover, but finding no money they went to Mrs Hutchings, and threatened to murder her if she did not disclose the place of its concealment. She gave them her watch, and was afterwards compelled to give up a purse containing sixty-five pounds, with which they immediately retired. Mrs Hutchings now directly set her female servants at liberty, and, having gone in search of the men, found Slow, who declared he was dying, and then dropped insensible on the floor. He languished until the following afternoon, when he died of the wounds which he had received.

It was a considerable time before the perpetrators of this most diabolical outrage were discovered; but they were at length given up to justice by one of their accomplices, named Isaacs, who was a German Jew, and who, reduced to the greatest necessity, was tempted by the prospect of reward to impeach his fellows. It then turned out that the gang consisted of eight persons, who were headed by the physician before mentioned. Dr Weil had been educated in a superior manner. He had studied physic in the University of Leyden, where he was admitted to the degree of doctor in that

faculty. Coming to England, he practised in London, with no inconsiderable degree of success, and was always known by the name of Doctor Weil. But so destitute was he of all principle, and such was the depravity of his heart, that he determined to engage in the dangerous practice of robbery; and, having formed this fatal resolution, he wrote to Amsterdam, to some poor Jews, to come to England and assist him in his intended depredations on the public; and at the same time informed them that in England large sums were to be acquired by the practice of theft.

The inconsiderate men no sooner received Dr Weil's letter than they procured a passport from the English consul, and, embarking in the Harwich packet-boat, arrived in England.

They lost no time in repairing to London, and, immediately attending Dr Weil, he informed them that his plan was that they should go out in the daytime and minutely survey such houses near London as might probably afford a good booty, and then attack them at night.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of December, 1771, Levi Weil, Asher Weil, Marcus Hartagh, Jacob Lazarus, Solomon Porter and Lazarus Harry were indicted for the felony and murder above mentioned, when the two of the name of Weil, with Jacob Lazarus and Solomon Porter, were capitally convicted; while Marcus Hartagh and Lazarus Harry were acquitted, for want of evidence.

These men, as is customary in all cases of murder, when it can be made convenient to the Court, were tried on a Friday, and on the following day they were anathematised in the synagogue. As their execution was to take place on the Monday following, one of the rabbis went to them in the press-yard of Newgate and delivered to each of them a Hebrew book; but declined attending them to the place of death, nor even prayed with them at the time of his visit.

They were attended to Tyburn, the place of execution,

by immense crowds of people, who were anxious to witness the exit of wretches whose crimes had been so much the object of public notice. Having prayed together, and sung a hymn in the Hebrew language, they were launched into eternity, on the 9th of December, 1771.

HENRY JONES, FRANCIS PHOENIX AND CHARLES BURTON

Executed at Tyburn, 3rd of February, 1772, for Burglary at the House of Sir Robert Ladbroke, a City Banker

THIS was a daring robbery, committed by breaking into the house of Sir Robert Ladbroke, an alderman and banker, in the City of London.

Notwithstanding the precautions taken by bankers against robbers, and particularly housebreakers, we have many instances of men being hardy enough to break into their strong-rooms and therefrom steal cash, silver-plate, or whatever valuables might have been therein deposited.

The plunder to which bankers were further liable was from knavish clerks running off with large sums which they were in the daily habit of collecting. But their profits being enormous, and without risk (for surely those who cannot take care of their own money ought to pay those handsomely who keep it safe for them), they still made immense fortunes.

Mr Child, the celebrated banker at Temple Bar, would not give his consent to his daughter marrying the Earl of Westmorland; and actually pursued the young couple in their flight to Gretna Green, solely because the purse-proud parent had a fortune to portion her to a duke.

In the year 1755 the cashier of a bank in Dublin, kept by a Quaker, ran off with no less a sum than eighty-four thousand pounds of their money, which caused business there to be at a standstill, other houses failing with the loss. He was apprehended, and lodged at Mr Sheriff Crampton's,

and only twenty-four thousand pounds was found upon him.

Enormous as this robbery was, capital punishment could not reach him; it was, by the law, held merely a breach of trust.

The daring gang, the immediate subjects of the case before us, on the night of the 20th of December, 1771, with iron crowbars wrenched open the doors of the house of Sir Robert Ladbroke, on St Peter's Hill, and though the whole family were in bed, and five men-servants in the house, yet the villains effected their purpose, and escaped undiscovered.

The articles which at the time were advertised to have been stolen on this occasion were:

Sir Robert's gold chain, the insignia of his office, as alderman of London, worth	£100
An alderman's wife's gold chain	80
Several pieces of plate	100
A coronation medal, a broad 25s. piece, a guinea of the coin of Oliver Cromwell, a guinea of the coin of George I. and other pieces	40
In old crown-pieces, about	15
Two gold snuff-boxes	20
A brilliant breast-buckle	25
A diamond hoop-ring	20
A pair of valuable Moco studs	10
A pair of cluster-stone buttons	10
And other articles, at a small computation	30
	£450

The robbers, finding this large booty in the apartment they first broke open, appear to have been satisfied, for they searched no other part of the house. A silver-hilted sword, which hung in the room, was not carried off, though it was taken down and laid upon a chair. An iron crow was found next morning in the passage.

Though Sir Robert and his whole family slept so sound

as not to hear what was going on below them, a gentleman living at the next house was alarmed by a noise, which he fancied arose from the wrenching open of a door and breaking into a house. He sprang out of bed, seized a blunderbuss, and threw open his window. Observing a watchman standing on the other side of the way, he asked him if he had not heard a disturbance. The treacherous guardian of the night answered that it was nothing but the wind, for everything was safe in that quarter.

The gentleman then asked him why he did not cry the hour, as the clock had some time struck; to which the watchman replied that he had called it, and, on being contradicted, went surlily away.

A short time after this another watchman, in passing, saw that Sir Robert Ladbroke's house had been broken open, and immediately gave the alarm; but the robbers had decamped.

In the morning the first watchman was sent for, but he was nowhere to be found—in fact, he was privy to the villainy; and by such wicked connivance many robberies were accomplished which could not have been effected if watchmen had been honest and done their duty.

The villains melted the gold articles; and on their trial a dispute arose between Sir Robert Ladbroke, the loser of the gold, which had been cast into an ingot, and Mr Cox, the purchaser. The latter urged that he had bought it in the face of day, in an open shop, and at a fair price; while Sir Robert insisted on a prior claim, of which he had been violently deprived.

The Court were inclined to favour Sir Robert, who, finding this, offered it as a *favour* to Mr Cox; but he disclaimed all favour, standing up for his *right* to the ingot, and then put it into his pocket. Thus he may be said to have very wisely "pocketed the affront."

The thieves were carried to Tyburn, and executed, on the 3rd of February, 1772.

JAMES BOLLAND

A Sheriff Officer, and a most unconscionable Villain, executed at Tyburn, 18th of March, 1772, for Forgery

JAMES BOLLAND was the son of a butcher. The youth gave early proofs of a profligate turn of mind, and constantly associated with worthless people of both sexes.

The term of his servitude being expired, Bolland opened a shop in the borough of Southwark, and his business afforded him a very favourable prospect of success; but through his irregularity and extravagance his trade gradually declined, and, to free himself from some embarrassments which his misconduct had produced, he sold his effects. Bolland's favourite associates for some years had been bailiffs, bailiffs' followers, thief-takers, and runners to the different prisons; and, the natural cruelty of his disposition being encouraged by the example of the worthless people in whose company he spent the greatest part of his time, he resolved to gain a maintenance by preying upon the distresses of his fellow-creatures.

Having procured himself to be appointed one of the officers to the sheriff of the county of Surrey, he hired a house at the bottom of Falcon Court, facing St George's Church, Southwark; and, having fitted it up in the manner of a prison, it was soon inhabited by a number of unfortunate persons. The people he arrested who were in indigent circumstances he took to jail as soon as the law would permit, but such as were in a different situation were entertained in his house till all their money was spent, or till they insisted upon going to prison to avoid further imposition, or till the writs by which they were detained became returnable. The money he extorted from his guests by divers stratagems was so considerable that he held the fees usually paid at lock-up houses as almost beneath his regard, and frequently distributed them among his followers and other servants.

Bolland was continually endeavouring to encourage

card-playing in his house; and when his unfortunate guests had recourse to that diversion he seldom failed to join in the game; and though he suffered no opportunity of cheating them, even in the most palpable manner, to escape him, they were obliged to submit to the insult and imposition; for if they ventured to expostulate on the unfairness of his proceedings it was his custom to discharge a volley of blasphemous oaths, and to threaten that he would instantly take them to jail for daring to affront him in his own house.

Though the emoluments arising from the infamous practices of Bolland were very considerable, they were not equal to the expenses of his profligate course of life, and he procured a person to issue out a commission of bankruptcy against him; but before the commission took place he secreted his most valuable effects. He further defrauded his creditors by giving notes and other securities to a number of people who had received no valuable considerations from him; and by means of these nominal creditors he obtained his certificate in a very short time.

The infamous practices of Bolland had now rendered his character so notorious that the attorneys imagined that if they continued to employ him they should be reflected upon for encouraging so abandoned a villain; and such repeated and heavy complaints were made against him that his business rapidly declined. But instead of endeavouring to obtain better success by an amendment of his conduct he seized every opportunity of practising extortion and fraud with greater rapacity, and became a still more abominable pest to society.

Bolland was an almost daily frequenter of places where billiards and other games were practised; and at one of these meetings he fell into company with a gentleman who employed him to arrest the captain of a ship in the East India service for a debt of three hundred pounds, and promised him a handsome compliment on condition that he recovered the money, or took the prisoner into custody. The following morning the gentleman set out for the country, and in

the course of the day Bolland arrested the captain, who immediately paid the debt, and costs.

In a short time the captain proceeded on his voyage, and the gentleman at whose suit he had been arrested returned to London soon afterwards. Bolland waited upon him, and said that, though he had made use of every stratagem he could possibly devise, the captain had eluded all his art, and got to sea; and in order to enhance the promised gratuity he pretended that his extraordinary vigilance to serve the writ had involved him in much trouble, and some expense, and the gentleman, being thus deceived, made Bolland a handsome present.

Upon the return of the ship from the East Indies another writ was taken out; but, Bolland having gone to a horse-race, it was given to another officer. The bailiff went to Blackwall, and presently found the captain, and said he must either pay the three hundred pounds or go with him to a place of security. But when the captain showed the officer Bolland's receipt for the money he returned to town and informed his employer that the debt was discharged to Bolland previous to the captain's sailing for India.

A suit at law was now instituted against Bolland for the recovery of three hundred pounds. Justice was so indisputably clear on the side of the plaintiff that Bolland knew he must inevitably be cast if the matter came to trial; yet, at a considerable expense, he protracted a judicial decision of the case, imagining his adversary would give up his claim rather than pursue him through all the delays and chicanery of the law.

The cause at length was brought to a hearing, and judgment was pronounced in favour of the plaintiff. Bolland, being surrendered by his bail, was taken in execution. He was conducted to a lock-up house, where he remained some time, and then moved himself by habeas corpus to the Fleet Prison, from which place he was released by virtue of an Act of Insolvency.

Bolland and a person with whom he had contracted an acquaintance in the Fleet were enlarged nearly at the same

time; and the latter soon after went into business, and found means to procure bondsmen for his companion, who was again appointed an officer to the Sheriff of Middlesex. Bolland now hired a large house in Great Shire Lane, near Temple Bar, but, that the outward appearance might not convey an intimation of the service and tyrannical treatment that was to be exercised within, the windows were not, according to the general custom with spunging-houses, secured with iron bars.

When prisoners came into the house, he informed them that it was his custom to charge six shillings per day for board and lodging; adding that the entertainment would be such as should give universal satisfaction, and that all trouble and disagreements concerning reckonings would be avoided; and such as refused to comply with the exorbitant terms were instantly conducted to jail. When Bolland's prisoners appeared inclined to remove to the King's Bench or Fleet he used every artifice he could suggest for detaining them in his house till they had exhausted the means of supplying his extravagant avarice; but when their money was expended no entreaties could prevail on the merciless villain to give them credit for the most trifling article, or to suffer them to continue another hour in his house.

He also defrauded a great number of tradesmen of property to a considerable amount, and among them was an upholsterer, of whom he obtained household furniture to the value of two hundred pounds, under false pretences.

Though Bolland was a married man, he was violently addicted to the company of abandoned women; and when his wife expostulated on the impropriety of his illicit connections he applied to her the most disgraceful epithets, accompanied with volleys of profane oaths, and frequently beat her in a barbarous manner. His conversation proved the vulgarity of his breeding, and his whole behaviour marked him as a worthless and detestable character.

A young gentleman whose imprudences had drawn upon him the displeasure of his friends was arrested at the suit

of his tailor, and confined in Bolland's house. His money was soon expended, and despairing of being able to effect a compromise with his creditor he expressed a desire to be moved to the King's Bench or the Fleet. Bolland informed him that he must be taken to Newgate, that being the jail for the county, and that he could not be moved to either of the other prisons but by means of a writ of habeas corpus.

The young gentleman was greatly alarmed at the idea of being confined in Newgate, which he supposed to be a place for the reception of felons only. Bolland perceived his anxiety, and advised him to recall his resolution, saying that if he would follow his directions a method might still be adopted for relieving him from all his difficulties. Anxious to recover his liberty, the youth said that if Bolland would signify the means by which so desirable a purpose was to be obtained he would gladly embrace the proposal, and ever consider him as his most generous benefactor. Thereupon Bolland informed him that he would immediately procure bail, and then recommended him to different tradesmen, of whom he might obtain a chariot and horses, household furniture and other effects, on credit; adding, that he would find no difficulty in obtaining a fortune by marriage before he would be called upon for the discharge of his debts.

The young man was released on the bail of two of Bolland's accomplices, a chariot was procured, and a house hired and furnished very elegantly; and one of Bolland's followers assumed the character of a footman, from the double motive of assisting in the scheme of villainy and reporting to his principal all the particulars of the conduct of the imprudent young man. Reports were industriously propagated that the youth was heir to an immense fortune; and, by a variety of stratagems, effects to a considerable amount were obtained from different tradesmen, the greater part of which were deposited in Bolland's house, by way of security to him for the bail he had procured. When payment for the furniture and other effects was demanded, the creditors were for some time amused by a variety of plausible

pretences; but at length they became exceedingly importunate for their money, and Bolland, now concluding that the young man could no longer be made subservient to his villainous stratagems, surrendered him in discharge of his bail, and caused him to be conveyed to Newgate.

The persons whom he had been seduced to defraud were no sooner acquainted with the imprisonment of the young adventurer than they lodged detainers against him. His unfortunate connections having greatly exasperated his relations and friends, they refused to afford him any kind of assistance, and his situation became truly deplorable. His present distress, and the upbraidings of conscience for the impropriety of his conduct, overwhelmed him with affliction, which soon put a period to his life.

Bolland, regarding the wreck he had occasioned with apathy, went on in his course of wickedness. He provided fictitious bail for persons who were under arrest, and when he knew that the persons whom he himself had arrested were not in desperate circumstances he frequently released them, after exacting money from them, and the promise to surrender if they could not settle matters with their creditors. He applied to these people to become bail for others, who paid him in proportion to the sums for which they were arrested; and, circumstanced as they were, it was seldom that he met with a refusal, for, upon their making the least hesitation, he threatened to take them into custody and convey them instantly to prison.

He provided genteel apparel for Jews, and other men in desperate circumstances, and encouraged them to commit perjury, by bribing them to swear themselves housekeepers and men of property, in order that their bail might be admitted.

Having supplied two men of most profligate character with genteel clothes, they attended him to Westminster Hall, and there justified bail for sums to a considerable amount, though they were not possessed of property to the value of twenty shillings. After the business these three infamous associates adjourned to a tavern in Covent Garden,

and, while they were regaling themselves, some of Sir John Fielding's officers took the two men who had justified bail into custody, on a charge of highway robbery. They were convicted at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, and soon afterwards Bolland, being a sheriff's officer, attended them to Tyburn, where they were hanged in the very apparel that he himself had provided for them.

A publican in Cecil Street in the Strand, named Wilkinson, went into Lancashire, in the year 1768, upon a visit to his relations, leaving the care of his house to a female servant. Upon the landlord's return he found that two men had taken possession of his household goods and stock of liquors, under a warrant of distress. He asked by what authority they had made a seizure of his effects; and the reply was, that if he presumed to dispute their authority they would knock out his brains, or put him to death in some other manner.

Wilkinson made application to Justice Kynaston, and made an affidavit that Bolland had no legal claim upon him. A warrant was granted for the recovery of Wilkinson's goods, but before it could be put into execution the greater part of them had been moved from the premises. The following day Bolland caused Wilkinson to be arrested for five hundred and fifty pounds, which was falsely alleged to be a debt he had some time before contracted. The unfortunate Wilkinson, being unable to procure bail for so considerable a sum, moved himself to the King's Bench. The attorney employed by Wilkinson was an accomplice of Bolland, and, under the pretence of defending him against the machinations of that accomplished villain, he extorted from him his last shilling; and after the unhappy man had suffered a long imprisonment, in a most deplorable state of poverty, he was restored to liberty, by virtue of an Act of Insolvency.

A captain in the navy going on a voyage, and leaving his wife insufficiently provided with money, she contracted a debt to the amount of thirty pounds, for which she gave a note. The note not being paid when it became due, the

creditor ordered Bolland to serve a writ upon the unhappy woman. After she had remained some days a prisoner in his house he procured bail for her, on her paying him five guineas. In a few days she was again taken into custody, Bolland urging that, upon making inquiry into her affairs, the bail deemed themselves not secure, and had surrendered her from motives of prudence. Terrified at the idea of going to prison she paid him ten guineas to procure bail a second time; but he insisted on having a bond to confess judgment for the furniture of her house, as a collateral security. Being ignorant of the nature of the security proposed, she complied with the terms offered by the villain, who, on the following day, entered upon judgment, and took possession of her effects. When she discovered that she had been made a dupe to the consummate art and villainy of Bolland, the unfortunate woman was driven almost to distraction, and while in that state of mind she attempted to set fire to the house, in consequence of which a warrant was granted to apprehend her, and she was accordingly committed to Newgate. In a short time the husband returned to England, and Bolland bribed an infamous woman to swear a false debt against him, in consequence of which he was arrested, and being in confinement at the time of his wife's trial at the Old Bailey, she was deprived of that assistance he might have afforded her. She was convicted, and sentenced to suffer death; but her cause being espoused by a number of humane persons, they drew up an authentic state of her case, which was presented to the King, who was graciously pleased to grant her an unconditional pardon.

Bolland was ordered by an attorney in the City to serve a writ on a colonel in his Majesty's service for one hundred pounds, and he arrested the gentleman the next day and was paid the debt and costs; but, instead of delivering the money for the plaintiff's use, he declared that he had not served the writ. The attorney, however, soon learned that the debt was discharged, and commenced a suit against the sheriffs; and the persons who had become sureties for Bolland were compelled to pay the hundred pounds, with full costs.

The colonel had neglected to take Bolland's receipt, and of this circumstance the villain determined to avail himself. He, a second time, arrested the gentleman for one hundred pounds. The action was bailed, and a trial ensued, in the course of which a witness swore that he was present when the colonel paid Bolland one hundred pounds, and costs, in discharge of the writ. Thereupon the jury pronounced in favour of the colonel.

Though Bolland's character was notorious throughout the kingdom, he might, perhaps, have continued his depredations much longer had not his infamous practices been exposed in the newspapers. When the sheriffs were informed of Bolland's villainy they were highly exasperated against him, and suspended him from acting as their officer, and assigned the bail bonds as security, by which the parties he had injured might obtain some recompense.

The office of upper City Marshal becoming vacant by the decease of Osmond Cook, Esq., Bolland determined to dispose of part of his infamously acquired property in the purchase thereof. The place was put up for sale by auction, and he became the purchaser for two thousand, four hundred pounds. Having paid the deposit money, it was lodged in the Chamberlain's office, and he anxiously waited for the approbation of the Court of Aldermen, which was all that was wanted to give him that power over the citizens which he was predetermined to abuse.

A letter was addressed to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen exhibiting Bolland's character in all its horrid deformity, and on proper inquiries being made the facts appeared to be well founded; in consequence of which the Court of Aldermen refused him the place, and ordered the Chamberlain to return the deposit money.

He declared that he would commence a suit at law against the Court of Aldermen for the recovery of damages; and when the recorder communicated to him the very strong reasons that had induced the Court to deem him unqualified for the place of City Marshal he behaved in a manner extremely reprehensible.

His last crime was forging the endorsement of a bill of exchange for one hundred pounds, for which he was apprehended, and tried at the Old Bailey. His counsel exerted their utmost abilities to prove that he had not committed forgery, but the jury found him guilty of the indictment. When sentence of death had been pronounced against him the recorder pathetically exhorted him to employ the short time he had to live in preparing for eternity.

On the morning of his execution he acknowledged that he had been guilty of innumerable sins, but declared that the fact for which he was to die was not committed with a view to defraud. He was hanged at Tyburn, and his body was taken to Highgate in a hearse, and in the evening carried to an undertaker's in Prince's Street, Drury Lane, whence it was conveyed to Bunhill Fields for interment.

JONATHAN BRITAIN

A plausible Rascal, who was executed at Bristol, 15th of May, 1772, for Forgery

JONATHAN BRITAIN was born near Thirsk, in the county of York. His parents were poor people, and not able to give him a liberal education. They sent him to York to an attorney, whom he was to serve as an errand-boy; but he had not been long in this station before his master discovered such uncommon marks of genius and ability in him that he articled him as a clerk, and took him into his office. But an impatience of restraint induced him to leave a master who had behaved to him with so much civility. He had not, however, been long out of a place when the master of a public academy employed him as a teacher of mathematics, for which his own studies had qualified him; and he was promoted to be principal usher in the school. In this situation he was as restless as in the former, and therefore quitted it, and entered as a soldier in the regiment of the 10th Dragoons.

As he was a man of remarkably fine appearance he was

taken great notice of by his officers, who paid such attention to him that it very much flattered his vanity; and, inducing him to rival his superiors in point of expense, his circumstances were soon greatly reduced, and he had recourse to the art of chicane and knavery to support his extravagance.

In these reduced circumstances he committed a variety of frauds, most of them of such artful contrivance as to elude all possibility of detection.

He had a custom of introducing himself into the company of persons who had no suspicion of deceit, and then he would so far insinuate himself into their good opinion as to take undue advantage of their unsuspecting honesty.

Reduced to circumstances of great distress, he was tempted to the commission of forgery. Having forged several drafts, he passed them at Bristol, and then repaired to London, in fear of detection. On his arrival in the metropolis he wrote several letters to the King, intimating that he had been concerned in setting fire to the dockyard at Portsmouth. No regard being paid to these letters to his Majesty, he wrote to the Lord Mayor, declaring that he was ready to surrender himself, and make a discovery of his accomplices, on condition that his pardon should be promised in an advertisement in *The London Gazette*.

At length a pardon to any accomplice was advertised in the *Gazette*; on which Britain went to Reading to meet his wife. But on the very evening of his arrival in that town he offered some forged drafts in payment; the consequence of which was that he was apprehended, and lodged in jail.

Britain then wrote letters, which he caused to be inserted in some of the newspapers, in which he charged Lord Mansfield and the Earls of Halifax and Faulconbridge, together with other persons of rank, with having been bribed by the Court of France to "encourage the setting fire to the dockyard at Portsmouth."

Improbable as this story was, many people gave a temporary attention to it, and some even affected to believe it; but it was too absurd to obtain credit for any considerable time. At the next assizes for the county of Berks a bill of

indictment for forgery was preferred against Britain, but thrown out by the grand jury, on what they considered as defective evidence; and his discharge would have ensued, of course, but that three detainers were lodged against him, which kept him in prison at Reading till he was removed to Bristol by a writ of habeas corpus.

Britain was now visited by numbers of people, who, from motives of curiosity, wished to inquire into the validity of the tale he had invented respecting the fire; but they could make no satisfactory discoveries. They saw that the whole tale was a lie, yet they contributed to his immediate support in a manner so liberal as to do honour to their humanity.

On the commencement of the sessions he was arraigned on several indictments for forgery; but being put to the bar, he refused to plead, and held in his hand the *Gazette* which contained the offer of pardon, insisting that he had given information against his accomplices who had set fire to the dockyard at Portsmouth.

On this he was informed by the recorder that he could take no notice of the proclamation inserted in the *Gazette*. But Britain, instead of paying attention to this declaration, threw the *Gazette* upon the table where the clerk sat, and declared that a scheme was formed to deprive him of life, contrary to the due course of law.

Thereupon the recorder mentioned a late Act of Parliament by which he would be deemed guilty if he refused to plead to the indictment; but the magistrate did not choose to proceed on the trial without being in possession of the Act in question; on which a special messenger was sent to London to procure the Act, if it could be had in print, or otherwise to bring an attested copy of it from the Record Office.

The messenger returned with the Act of Parliament in print at the end of two days, and Britain was again brought to his trial, when he pleaded not guilty to the indictment. The recorder would have allowed him counsel, but he refused all such kind of assistance, and was determined to plead for himself. He cross-examined the witnesses in a manner

that gave sufficient testimony of his abilities; but the evidence against him was such as not to admit of a doubt of his guilt, and in consequence he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. He was executed on the 15th of May, 1772.

WILLIAM GRIFFITHS

Executed at Tyburn, 20th of January, 1773, for a Highway Robbery

THE person robbed in this case was the celebrated and unfortunate Dr Dodd, whom, a few years afterwards, Fate decreed to be hanged at the very spot where Griffiths suffered.

William Griffiths was a native of Shropshire, and followed the business of husbandry till he had attained his eighteenth year, when he engaged in a naval life, and remained nearly three years in the East Indies. The ship was paid off on his return to England, and Griffiths, receiving a considerable sum for wages, spent his money, as sailors too generally do, in no very reputable company, at public-houses in Wapping and adjacent parts.

By his connection with men and women of abandoned character his money was soon spent, and he began to think of going to sea for a supply—and happy might it have been for him if he had done so—but David Evans and Timothy Johnson, two of his newly acquired associates, and men of very abandoned character, advised him to be concerned with them in committing robberies on the highway; and this triple association of thieves did actually commit a variety of depredations on the public, treating those they attacked with great inhumanity, but never obtaining anything considerable by their lawless pursuits.

The Rev. Dr Dodd and his lady were returning from a visit they had been making to a gentleman at St Albans, but were detained on the way at Barnet, because a post-chaise could not be immediately procured. Night was hastily approaching when they left Barnet, but they proceeded

unmolested till they came near the turnpike at the extremity of Tottenham Court Road, when three men called to the driver of the carriage, and threatened his instant destruction if he did not stop. The post-boy did not hesitate to obey such summons; but no sooner was the carriage stopped than a pistol was fired, the ball from which went through the front glass of the chaise, but did not take any effect to the injury of the parties in it, though it terrified them in a very high degree, as they apprehended that the most fatal consequences might ensue. While the Doctor was waiting at Barnet for the chaise it occurred to him that there might be danger on the road, whereupon he concealed all his money except two guineas, which he put in his purse, with a bill of exchange.

Soon after the pistol was fired, Griffiths opened the door of the chaise; on which the Doctor begged him to behave with civility, on account of the presence of the lady. He then delivered the purse, with its contents, and likewise gave the robber some loose silver. Griffiths, having received the booty, decamped with the utmost precipitation.

Dr Dodd lost no time in repairing to Sir John Fielding's office, where he and his lady gave so full a description of the person of the principal robber that it was easily conjectured Griffiths must have been the party; but who had been his associates in the business never yet transpired.

In consequence of this information, Griffiths was soon taken into custody. On his examination before Sir John Fielding, Dr Dodd hesitated to swear positively to his person; but Mrs Dodd, who had regarded him with more attention, positively declared on oath that he was the person who had committed the robbery.

Thereupon the magistrate committed Griffiths to Newgate. A bill of indictment was found against him by the grand jury, and he was called down to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, when the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty; in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

GEORGE BARRINGTON

A Well-Dressed Pickpocket who "worked" in Churches and the Houses of Parliament, and was convicted on 15th of March, 1773

BARRINGTON was convicted of stealing a watch from a lady in the pit of one of the theatres, and sentenced to labour three years on the Thames. When about a year of the time had expired he procured a petition to be presented to the Court, praying that the remaining part of his sentence might be remitted; and the officers of the *Justitia* hulk made so favourable a report of his behaviour that, some time after, an order was sent to Mr Campbell for his release.

A few days after Barrington's release he went to St Sepulchre's Church, where Doctor Mylne was to preach a sermon for the benefit of the Society for the Recovery of Persons apparently Drowned. William Payne, a constable, saw him put his hand into a lady's pocket, in the south aisle, and presently after followed him out of the church and took him into custody, near the end of Cock Lane, upon Snow Hill. Having taken the prisoner to St Sepulchre's watch-house, and found a gold watch and some other articles in his possession, Payne returned to the church and spoke to the lady whom he had seen the prisoner attempt to rob; and she informed him that she had lost nothing, for, expecting the church to be much crowded, she had taken the precaution of emptying her pockets before leaving her house.

Upon Payne's return to the watch-house a gentleman advised that the prisoner should be more strictly searched. He was desired to take off his hat, and, raising his left arm, he cautiously removed his hat from his head, when a metal watch dropped upon the floor. He was now obliged to pull off the greatest part of his clothes. He wore three pairs of breeches, in one of the pockets of which was found a purse, containing thirteen guineas and a bank-note for ten pounds made payable to himself.

In consequence of an advertisement inserted the next

day in the newspapers a Mrs Ironmonger came to Payne's house and described a watch she had lost, and it proved to be that which had been concealed in Barrington's hair and had dropped on the floor when he took off his hat. She attended the examination of the prisoner, and, having sworn that the watch produced by Payne was her property, was bound over to prosecute.

Upon his trial Barrington made a long, artful and plausible defence. He said that, upon leaving the church, he perceived the watch mentioned in the indictment lying upon the ground, and picked it up, intending to advertise it the next day; that he was followed to Snow Hill by Payne and another constable, who apprehended him, and had in all probability seen him pick up the watch. "I reflected," said he, "that how innocently soever I might have obtained the article in question, yet it might cause some censure; and no man would wonder, considering the unhappy predicament I stood in,[1] that I should conceal it as much as possible."

The jury having pronounced the prisoner guilty, he addressed the Court, and earnestly supplicated that he might be permitted to enter into his Majesty's service, and promised to discharge his trust with fidelity and attention; or, if he could not be indulged in that request, that his sentence might be banishment for life from his Majesty's dominions. The Court informed him that by an application to the Throne he might obtain a mitigation of his sentence, if his case was attended by such circumstances of extenuation as would justify him in humbly petitioning to be considered as an object of the Royal favour. He requested that the money and bank-note be returned. Thereupon the Court observed that, in consequence of his conviction, the property found on him when he was apprehended became vested in the hands of the sheriffs of the City of London, who had discretionary power either to comply with or reject his request.

He was convicted to labour on the Thames for the space of five years, on Tuesday, the 5th of April, 1778. He was by profession a surgeon; and his education,

[1] Alluding to a former conviction.

abilities and address were such as, had they been properly employed, would certainly have introduced him to a genteel competency, and a reputable station in life. He seems to have had a natural taste for dress, in which particular he was never beneath gentility, but frequently bordering upon elegance. His appearance gained him ready admission to the most respectable public assemblies; and he was a frequent visitor in the galleries of both Houses of Parliament.

Count Orlow, the Russian Minister, when in one of the boxes of Drury Lane playhouse, was robbed of a gold snuff-box set with diamonds, estimated to be worth an immense sum; and one of the Count's attendants, suspecting Barrington, seized him, and found the snuff-box in his possession. He was examined by Sir John Fielding; but the Count, being in a foreign country, was influenced by motives of delicacy to decline a prosecution.

Some time after the above circumstance a gentleman observed Barrington in the House of Lords, and pointed him out to Philip Quarme, Esq., Deputy Usher of the Black Rod, who insisted upon his immediately quitting the House, assuring him that his attendance in Parliament would, for the future, be dispensed with.

WILLIAM FIELD *ALIAS* GREEN

Executed on Kennington Common, 1st of September, 1773, for Highway Robbery

WILLIAM FIELD had been a gentleman's livery-servant, and had been turned out of several places for his irregularities. At length the badness of his character prevented any gentleman from taking him into his house.

The highway being the general recourse of discharged footmen, Field commenced as a highwayman.

To the pert insolence of a footman he added the daring impulse of desperation as a highwayman. While in service he had made a large acquaintance with ostlers, jockeys and post-boys. He therefore found no difficulty in borrowing horses to carry him through his depredations, and he gained

information of travellers of property from the gang who had long been his comrades.

One of the most daring attempts at robbery was upon the late celebrated Colonel Luttrell, brother to the late Duchess of Cumberland, and another gentleman, whom he stopped near Gunsbury House. The Colonel immediately fired a pistol, without effect, at the highwayman, who in return presented one at the traveller; but from its having been some time loaded it would not go off, upon which he rode away. This pistol, Field confessed, he took from Colonel West's housekeeper some time before, when he stopped and fired at that officer.

The money of which he robbed travellers for some time he squandered upon lewd women and abandoned discarded servant-men. He was, however, at length apprehended, and convicted of a robbery; but, through the lenity of his prosecutor, the sentence of death was remitted to seven years' transportation to America. Thither he was sent, and sold as a slave; but soon finding means to escape, with others, from bondage, he fled to New York, and there embarked on board a vessel bound for Poole, in Dorsetshire.

Being again in London, Field frequently committed four or five robberies a night, sometimes on Finchley Common, and often on Shooter's Hill, Blackheath, and other places in that neighbourhood; and once, being closely pursued, he effected a difficult escape to town. After this he frequented Putney Common and its adjacencies, whence he brought considerable booty into London. Notice having been given at Sir John Fielding's office, persons were sent out on different roads, and Field was conveyed, handcuffed to Tothill Fields Bridewell. Though he had returned from transportation, it was thought proper to indict him at the Surrey Assizes for the subsequent robberies, when he would have pleaded guilty, but Lord Chief Baron Smythe advised him to put himself on his trial; and the jury having given a verdict against him, the judge pronounced sentence, after addressing him in the most pathetic manner; and he was executed accordingly.

WILLIAM COX

Who played Marbles and kept a Pet Sparrow to aid him in the Commission of Robberies. Executed at Tyburn, 27th of October, 1773

COX'S father having been transported—first initiating his son in the art of robbery—young Cox was left to act on his own account, and as usual, with other wicked habits, he began by picking pockets; but he was soon apprehended and committed to Bridewell, where he was reduced to a most miserable degree of poverty. He no sooner obtained his liberty than he procured decent apparel, and was from that time remarkably clean and neat in his appearance.

He lived some years at the house of his uncle, West, in Feather's Court, High Holborn, who encouraged him to pursue those illegal courses which led to his destruction.

He got unperceived into a grocer's, at the corner of Long Lane, in Aldersgate Street, and stole a silver-hilted sword from a room on the first floor. Returning through the shop with his booty, he was asked some questions; on which he said he had been playing with Master Billy, which, he had informed himself, was the name of the grocer's son. But on going out of the shop the sword struck against the steps, and he was taken into custody and brought to trial; but it was his fortune to escape conviction.

Being provided with a tame sparrow, he let the bird fly into a window of a house in Hanover Street, and the door happening to be open he went in, and concealed plate to a considerable amount. Hearing some person walking toward the room he sought refuge in the area, where, being perceived by an elderly gentlewoman, who was the only person in the house, he burst into tears, and saying his sparrow had flown into the window begged he might be allowed to catch it. The old lady complied; and he soon found an opportunity of decamping with his booty.

It was the common practice of Cox to play at marbles, and other games, with young gentlemen before the doors

of their parents, and he seldom suffered an opportunity to escape of getting into and robbing the houses. He had a very remarkable boyish appearance ; and on a variety of occasions that circumstance greatly assisted him in the pursuit of his felonious designs. So childish, in fact, was his appearance—for he was very short and slender for his years —that sometimes he provided himself with marbles, and, dressing himself like young master, would ask to play with any gentleman's children whom he might observe in the environs of London amusing themselves in their father's courtyard. Thus he would insidiously get every information from the innocent and unsuspicious boys, and repay their little acts of hospitality by plundering the houses of their parents.

Cox was connected with a notorious thief, who called himself Captain Davis ; and by means of the most artful stratagems that could be suggested these accomplices perpetrated a surprising number of robberies. Davis was at length apprehended, and sentenced to suffer death ; but he was reprieved on condition of transportation.

About the middle of the summer, 1773, the apartments of Mr Kendrick, in Oxford Street, were privately entered, and a bureau was opened and three bank-notes of one hundred pounds each, a hundred and thirty guineas, and a silver watch were stolen thereout, to the amount of four hundred and forty pounds. Soon after Mr Kendrick's robbery Cox and William Claxton went together to Reading, in Berkshire, and there purchased three horses, for which Claxton paid with one of the notes stolen from Mr Kendrick, receiving in part of the change a fifty-pound bank-note, which he afterwards changed at the bank for notes of smaller value, two of which were found in the possession of West, Cox's uncle. On the first examination of these offenders at the public office in Bow Street, which was on Wednesday, the 11th of August, West said he received the notes from his wife on the day preceding that of her decease, which was about the time of Mr Kendrick's robbery ; but on the following Wednesday he assured the magistrates that the notes had been in

his possession three years. In contradiction to this it was proved that the notes had not been many days issued from the bank.

Mr Knapp and Mr White, of Reading, appeared, and the fifty-pound note, given in part change of that of a hundred, was regularly traced from the hands of Claxton to the bank, where he had changed it for others of smaller value. West was discharged, and Claxton was admitted an evidence against Cox, who was committed for trial at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey.

The evidence against Cox was chiefly circumstantial; but it was of such a nature as to be almost as strong as positive proof, and on that evidence he was convicted.

Finding the end of his career fast approaching, Cox began to prepare himself for eternity. He was executed along with four more unhappy men, who excited much commiseration from the spectators.

ELIZABETH HARRIET GREEVE

A clever Swindler, transported for Felony, in the Year 1773

ELIZABETH HARRIET GREEVE was one of those specious swindlers who, pretending to great patronage, cheated the credulous by promises of preferment.

With one of the dupes of her artifice she was first cousin to Lord North; with another, second cousin to the Duke of Grafton; to a third, nearly related to Lady Fitzroy: on some occasions she affected great intimacy with Lord Guilford; and had the young Premier then ruled the State she would, without much doubt, have boasted the patronage of Mr Pitt.

On Wednesday, the 3rd of November, 1773, this female sharper and consummate impostor was brought to the bar of the public office, Bow Street, under various charges of fraud.

William Kidwell, a coach-carver, swore that the woman at the bar, who called herself the Honourable Elizabeth Harriet

Greeve, had defrauded him of thirty-six pounds, under a promise of procuring him the place of clerk to the stores in the Victualling Office. He said that, the fashion of carving coaches being on the decline, he wished to invest the little sum he had by dint of frugality and hard labour saved in the purchase of some place, and for this purpose advertised for such a situation. This pretended honourable lady answered, and soon lured him out of the sum above mentioned

William Kent, of Streatly, in Berkshire, charged her with defrauding him of thirty pounds in cash and obtaining from him his conditional bond for two hundred and fifty pounds more, which, together, was the price of the place of a coast-waiter.

This deluded man, upon the promises of Mrs Greeve, quitted his business in the country, and with his wife and children came to London, and remained there some time in the most anxious expectation before he discovered the imposition.

Elizabeth Cooper next appeared before the magistrates and charged the prisoner with defrauding her late husband of sixty-two pounds on a similar pretence to the last case, the loss of which, and his disappointment, the poor afflicted widow said, broke his heart.

The sum of her villainy was proved by another witness, whom the rest had, through some industry, found out: this was her factotum, agent, clerk and friend, an occasional esquire, of the name of Francis Crook. This man swore that when he first acted as her *agent* he did not know she was an impostor; that he had agreed with a number of persons for the sale of places, whom he took to his mistress, but *she* always took the money paid in advance.

This artful female was soon recognised as one who had been transported two years before, but had returned before the expiration of the term of her service. She was again disposed of in a similar manner.

JOHN RANN

Commonly called "Sixteen-String Jack." Executed at Tyburn, 30th of November, 1774, for Highway Robbery

JOHN RANN was an impudent and arrogant self-created gentleman. He was born at a village a few miles from Bath. For some time he obtained a livelihood by vending goods, which he drove round the city and adjacent country on an ass.

A lady of distinction, who happened to be at Bath, took Rann into her service when he was about twelve years of age, and his behaviour was such that he became the favourite of his mistress and fellow-servants.

At length he came to London and got employment as a helper in the stables at Brooke's mews; in which station he bore a good character. He then became the driver of a post-chaise, after which he was servant to an officer, and in both these stations he was well spoken of.

About four years before his execution he was coachman to a gentleman of fortune near Portman Square, and it was at this period that he dressed in the manner which gave rise to the appellation of "Sixteen-String Jack." He wore breeches with eight strings at each knee.

After living in the service of several noblemen he lost his character, and turned pickpocket, in company with three fellows named Jones, Clayton and Colledge, the latter of whom (a mere boy) obtained the name of "Eight-String Jack."

For some time Rann kept company with a young woman named Roche, who, having been apprenticed to a milliner, and being seduced by an officer of the Guards, was reduced to obtain bread by the casual wages of prostitution; and at length, associating with highwaymen, received such valuable effects as they took on the road.

On the 30th of May, Rann was taken into custody, and was brought to Bow Street on the following Wednesday, charged with robbing John Devall, Esq., near the

nine milestone on the Hounslow Road, of his watch and money. This watch he had given to Miss Roche, who had delivered it to Catherine Smith, who offered it in pledge to Mr Hallam, a pawnbroker, who, suspecting that it was not honestly obtained, caused all the parties to be taken into custody.

Sir John Fielding asked Rann if he would offer anything in his defence; on which the latter said: "I know no more of the matter than you do, nor half so much neither." On this occasion Rann wore a bundle of flowers in the breast of his coat almost as large as a broom, and his irons were tied up with a number of blue ribbons. Rann was tried at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in July, 1774, and acquitted.

On the Sunday following, Rann appeared at Bagnigge Wells, dressed in a scarlet coat, tambour waistcoat, white silk stockings, laced hat, etc., and publicly declared himself to be a highwayman. Having drank pretty freely, he became extremely quarrelsome, and several scuffles ensued, in one of which he lost a ring from his finger, and when he discovered his loss he said it was but a hundred guineas gone, which one evening's *work* would replace. He became at length so troublesome that part of the company agreed to turn him out of the house; but they met with so obstinate a resistance that they were obliged to give up their design, when a number of young fellows, possessed of more spirit than discretion, attacked this magnanimous hero, and actually forced him through the window into the road. Rann was not much injured by this severe treatment; but he complained bitterly against those who could so affront a *gentleman* of his character.

Soon afterwards Rann appeared at Barnet Races, dressed in a most elegant sporting style, his waistcoat being blue satin trimmed with silver; and he was followed by hundreds of people, who were eager to gratify their curiosity by the sight of a man who had been so much the subject of public conversation.

A very short time before Rann was capitally convicted he

attended a public execution at Tyburn, and, getting within the ring formed by the constables round the gallows, desired that he might be permitted to stand there—" For," said he, " perhaps it is very proper that I should be a spectator on this occasion."

On the 26th of September, 1774, Rann and William Collier went on the Uxbridge Road to commit robberies on the highway; and on the Wednesday following they were examined at the public office in Bow Street, when Dr William Bell, chaplain to the Princess Amelia, deposed that between three and four o'clock on the afternoon of Monday, the 26th of September, as he was riding near Ealing, he observed two men of mean appearance, who rode past him; and that soon afterwards Rann crossed the head of his horse and, demanding his money, said: " Give it me, and take no notice, or I'll blow your brains out." On this the Doctor gave him one shilling and sixpence, which was all the silver he had, and likewise a common watch in a tortoiseshell case.

On the evening of the day on which the robbery was committed Eleanor Roche (who was kept by Rann) and her maid-servant carried the watch to pledge it with Mr Cordy, pawnbroker in Oxford Road, who, suspecting that it had not been honestly acquired, stopped it and applied to Mr Grignion, watchmaker in Russell Street, Covent Garden, who had made the watch for Dr Bell.

Rann and Collier were committed to Newgate, to take their trial for the highway robbery; Miss Roche was sent to Clerkenwell Bridewell, and Christian Stewart (her servant) to Tothill Fields Bridewell, to be tried as accessories after the fact. At the trial Collier was recommended to mercy, and afterwards respited during the King's pleasure. Miss Roche was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years, her servant was acquitted, and Rann was left for execution.

When Rann was brought down to take his trial he was dressed in a new suit of pea-green clothes, his hat was bound round with silver strings, he wore a ruffled shirt, and his behaviour evidenced the utmost unconcern. Rann was so confident of being acquitted that he had ordered a

genteel supper to be provided for the entertainment of his particular friends and associates on the joyful acquittal; but their intended mirth was turned into mourning, and the madness of guilty joy to the sullen melancholy of equally guilty grief.

After conviction the behaviour of this malefactor was for some time very improper for one in his unhappy circumstances. On Sunday, the 23rd of October, he had seven girls to dine with him. The company were remarkably cheerful; nor was Rann less joyous than his companions.

On the morning of the execution he received the Sacrament in the chapel of the prison. When he came near the fatal tree he turned round and looked at it as an object which he had long expected to see, but not as on one that he dreaded.

After the customary devotions he was turned off, and, having hung the usual time, his body was delivered to his friends for interment.

AMOS MERRITT

Having saved an Innocent Man from the Gallows, he himself was executed at Tyburn, 10th of January, 1775, for Burglary

PATRICK MADEN, convicted of a foot robbery on the highway, and William Waine and Levi Barnet, for burglary, were, on the 19th of August, 1774, carried to Tyburn, for execution, pursuant to their sentence.

When the cart was drawn under the gallows a man among the crowd of spectators called out for the others to make way for him, as he had something to communicate to the sheriff respecting one of the malefactors. This being effected, the man, who proved to be Amos Merritt, addressed Mr Reynolds, the under-sheriff, and declared that Patrick Maden was innocent of the crime for which he was about to suffer. Mr Reynolds desired he would look upon the prisoner and speak aloud what he had represented to him.

He did so, and declared that he was not guilty, but declined accusing himself. The sheriffs, hearing this declaration, dispatched Mr Reynolds with the information to the Secretary of State, and to request his further orders, of whom he obtained a respite for Maden, who was carried back to Newgate, amid the acclamations of the people.

During Mr Reynolds's absence, which was almost an hour, the other culprits remained with the ropes round their necks, and were then executed.

Merritt was taken into custody, and at the public office in Bow Street, before Mr Justice Addington, confessed that he himself was the person who had committed the robbery of which Maden had been convicted. The latter was pardoned. Though no doubt remained of Merritt's guilt, yet, as no proof could be adduced to that effect, he, for a while, escaped justice.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of December, 1774, Merritt was indicted for feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Edward Ellicott, early on the morning of the 26th of October, and robbing it of plate, a gold watch, and other valuable articles to a large amount. The evidence was deemed so satisfactory that the jury did not hesitate to find Merritt guilty: in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

He confessed that he had committed the burglary and robbery, and he suffered at the same place, within a single year, where he had been the means of saving the life of Maden.

LAMBERT READING

Hackney-Coachman and Leader of a Gang of Robbers, executed at Chelmsford, 10th of August, 1775, for Burglary

LAMBERT READING was the principal of a desperate gang of hackney-coachmen who robbed Copped Hall, in Essex, not far from London. He had a hackney-coachman

in confederacy, who waited for him at Stratford. A magistrate of the county, happening to pass by the coach, was struck at its being there at an unusual hour of the night, from which circumstance he was induced to observe its number.

Hearing, the next day, of the robbery at Copped Hall, he wrote to Sir John Fielding his suspicions, and named the number of the coach. From this information the thief-takers traced Reading to a house in Brick Lane, where they found him in bed with a woman who passed as his wife.

He was surrounded with pistols, hangers, picklock keys, dark lanterns and other apparatus of a housebreaker. He had an opportunity of using some of these arms in his defence, but he was so greatly intimidated that he quietly surrendered himself.

The material result of the search was the recovery of the plate stolen from Copped Hall, which was found hidden in Reading's apartment, in three sacks.

On evidence to this effect, added to other corroborating circumstances, he was convicted and executed.

The other hackney-coachman, whose name was Chapman, and who drove for one Conyers, the owner, was taken on the day of Reading's trial; and, being found guilty as an accessory, also received sentence of death, which was afterwards commuted for transportation.

DANIEL AND ROBERT PERREAU

Twin Brothers, who, though popularly believed to be innocent, were executed at Tyburn, 17th of January, 1776, for Forgery

DANIEL AND ROBERT PERREAU were twin brothers, and though their offence was forgery—striking at the very root of trade—yet such was the mercantile opinion on the peculiar hardship of the fate of Robert that seventy-eight of the leading bankers and merchants in London signed a petition for mercy, and presented it to the King, only two days previous to his execution.

His miserable wife, accompanied by her three children, dressed in deep mourning, on their knees presented a petition to the Queen, imploring her to save the husband and the father. Such a picture of distress was seldom seen. The Queen was greatly affected, and her interest would have succeeded in a case less heinous in the eyes of the law—perhaps, indeed, in any, save forgery; for it has been long considered too dangerous to come within the scope of mercy, when once convicted of the fatal crime.

The brothers appear to have been the dupes of an artful woman, Margaret Catharine Rudd, who cohabited with Daniel. Robert Perreau, at any rate, was thought to have been, by her art, implicated in the crime for which they both suffered, while she escaped justice, for want of sufficient evidence.

When apprehended, Daniel kept an elegant house in Harley Street, Cavendish Square, London, wherein Mrs Rudd passed as his wife; and Robert was a surgeon of eminence in Golden Square. From the evidence given on their trial there is every reason to believe that Mrs Rudd forged a bond for seven thousand, five hundred pounds in the name of William Adair, Esq., then a well-known agent, which was given by Daniel to Robert, upon which to raise money. This fatal instrument the latter presented, for that purpose, to Messrs Drummond, the bankers, who suspected its validity, and the brothers and Mrs Rudd were apprehended for forgery.

Robert made a long and ingenious defence; and though many were of opinion that he was ignorant of the instrument being a forgery, yet the jury convicted him of uttering it, knowing it to be such.

Daniel solemnly declared that he received the bond from Mrs Rudd as a true bond, and both urged the truth of their assertions from the proof that she had pretended some acquaintance with Mr Adair. They called many witnesses of the first respectability, who testified to their unblemished character, among whom was Lady Littleton, who, being asked if she believed that Robert, on whose

behalf she appeared, could be capable of such a crime, answered that she supposed she could have done it herself as soon.

The unhappy brothers lay in prison, after conviction, seven months before the warrant was signed for their execution. This delay of executing the sentence of the law arose from giving time for the trial of Mrs Rudd, in order thereby to ascertain whether anything material to the case of the Perreaus might be brought to light; but no evidence could reach the part she took in the transaction, and she was accordingly acquitted. The day fixed for their execution was Wednesday, the 17th of January, 1776, at which the multitude of spectators outnumbered any within the memory of man on such an occasion, being computed at thirty thousand.

They went to Tyburn in a mourning-coach. When they quitted the coach they ascended the cart from which they were to be launched into eternity with manly fortitude, and bowed respectfully to the sheriffs, who, in return, bowed their heads as a final adieu. They were dressed exactly alike, in deep mourning.

After the customary devotions they crossed their hands, joining the four together, and in this manner were launched into eternity. They had not hung more than half-a-minute when their hands dropped asunder, and they appear to have died without pain.

Each of them delivered a paper to the ordinary of Newgate, which declared their innocence, and ascribed the blame of the whole transaction to the artifices of Mrs Rudd; and, indeed, thousands of people gave credit to their assertions, and a great majority of the public thought Robert wholly innocent.

On the Sunday following, the bodies were carried from the house of Robert, in Golden Square, and, after the usual solemnities, deposited in the vault of St Martin's Church. The coffins were covered with black cloth and nails, and a black plate on each, with their names, the day of their death and their ages (forty-two) inscribed. They were carried in

separate hearses, their friends attending in mourning-coaches. The crowd was so great that the company could with difficulty get into the church.

PETER LE MAITRE

Convicted, 7th of March, 1777, of robbing the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford

WHEN Lord Thurlow was Chancellor of England some villains broke into his house, in Great Ormond Street, and stole thereout the Great Seal of England, which was never recovered, nor were the thieves known. We have heard also of a valuable diamond being stolen from the late Duke of Cumberland while going into the theatre in the Haymarket to see the bubble of the bottle-conjurer. It is also a fact that the Duke of Beaufort was robbed of his diamond Order of St George as he went to Court on a Royal birthday; but we have yet to tell that a museum was robbed of its curious medals.

Peter Le Maitre was a French teacher at Oxford, and, being supposed a man of industry and good morals, he was indulged with free admission to the Ashmolean Museum. Thither he frequently went, and appeared very studious over the rare books and other valuable curiosities there deposited. He was left alone to his researches. At one of such times he stole two medals, and at another he secreted himself until the doors (without the keeper's suspecting anyone was there) were locked for the night. When all had retired he came from his lurking-place and broke open the cabinet where the medals were locked up, and possessed himself of its contents; then he wrenched a bar from a window and, unsuspected, made his escape.

The college was thrown into the utmost consternation on finding their museum thus plundered. Some were suspected, but least of all Le Maitre, until it was discovered that he had privately left the city in a post-chaise, and that he had pledged two of the stolen medals to pay the post-

boys. This left little doubt but that he was the ungrateful thief. He was advertised and described, and by this means apprehended in Ireland. He had first fled to Norwich, where he sold a variety of gold chains and various valuable coins.

He was conveyed back to Oxford, in order to take his trial; and thereon it appeared that two of the stolen medals were found in a bureau in his lodgings of which he had the use, and two more were traced to the persons to whom he had sold them.

He had little to offer in his defence and, on the clearest evidence, the jury found him guilty. Upon argument it was found that no punishment adequate to the crime could be inflicted; and Monsieur Le Maitre paid the penalty of his offence by five years' hard labour at ballast-heaving on the River Thames.

JAMES HILL

Commonly called "John the Painter," an Incendiary, who aimed at the Destruction of the Nation. Executed at Portsmouth, 10th of March, 1777

JAMES HILL was a journeyman to Mr Golden, a painter, at Titchfield, whence he procured the familiar title of "John the Painter." During a residence of some years in America he imbibed principles destructive to the interests of this country. Transported with party zeal, he formed the desperate resolution of committing a most atrocious crime, which he, in some degree, effected. About four o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th of December, 1776, a fire broke out in the roundhouse of Portsmouth Dock, which entirely consumed that building. The fire was wholly attributed to accident; but on the 5th of January three men, who were employed in the hemp-house, found a tin machine, somewhat resembling a tea-canister, and near the same spot a wooden box containing various kinds of combustibles. This circumstance being communicated to the commissioner of the dock, and circulated among the public,

several vague and indefinite suspicions fell upon Hill, who had been lurking about the dockyard, whose surname was not known, but who had been distinguished by the appellation of "John the Painter."

In consequence of advertisements in the newspapers, offering a reward of fifty pounds for apprehending him, he was secured at Odiham. On the 17th of February the prisoner was examined at Sir John Fielding's office, Bow Street, where John Baldwin, who exercised the trade of a painter in different parts of America, attended, by the direction of Lord Temple. The prisoner's discourse with Baldwin operated very materially towards his conviction, as it was brought in corroboration of a variety of evidence on the trial. He said he had taken a view of most of the dockyards and fortifications about England, with the number of ships in the navy, and observed their weight of metal and their number of men, and had been to France two or three times to inform Silas Dean, the American, of his discoveries; and that Dean gave him bills to the amount of three hundred pounds and letters of recommendation to a merchant in the City, which he had burned, lest they should lead to a discovery. He informed Baldwin that he had instructed a tinman's apprentice at Canterbury to make him a tin canister, which he carried to Portsmouth, where he hired a lodging at one Mrs Boxall's, and tried his preparations for setting fire to the dockyard.

After recounting the manner of preparing matches and combustibles he said that on the 6th of the preceding December he got into the hemp-house, and having placed a candle in a wooden box, and a tin canister over it, and sprinkled turpentine over some of the hemp, he proceeded to the rope-house, where he placed a bottle of turpentine among a quantity of loose hemp, which he sprinkled with turpentine, and having laid matches, made of paper painted over with powdered charcoal and gunpowder diluted with water, and other combustibles about the place, he returned to his lodgings. These matches were so contrived as to continue burning for twenty-four hours, so that by cutting them

into proper lengths he provided for his escape, knowing the precise time when the fire would reach the combustibles. He had hired lodgings in other two houses, to which he intended to set fire, that the engines might not be all employed together in quenching the conflagration at the dock.

On the 7th he again went to the hemp-house, intending to set it on fire, which he, however, was unable to effect, owing to a halfpennyworth of common house matches that he had bought not being sufficiently dry. This disappointment, he said, rendered him exceedingly uneasy, and he went from the hemp-house to the rope-house and set fire to the matches he had placed there. He said his uneasiness was increased because he could not return to his lodging, where he had left a bundle containing an Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, a treatise on war and making fireworks, a Justin, a pistol and a French passport, in which his real name was inserted.

When he had set fire to the rope-house he proceeded toward London, deeply regretting his failure in attempting to fire the other building, and was strongly inclined to fire into the windows of the woman who had sold him the bad matches. He jumped into a cart, and gave the woman who drove it sixpence, to induce her to drive quickly, and when he had passed the sentinels observed the fire to have made rapid progress. He went to Bristol and, a short time after his arrival there, set fire to several houses, which were all burning with great rapidity at one time, and the flames were not extinguished till damage was sustained to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds. He also set fire to combustibles that he had placed among a number of oil barrels upon the quay, but, happily, without effect. He related to Baldwin a great number of other circumstances, which were confirmed by a variety of evidence on his trial, which came on on Thursday, 6th of March, 1777, at Winchester Castle, when witnesses were produced from different parts of the country, who proved the whole of his confession to Baldwin to be true.

The jury, after a clear and impartial charge from Baron Hotham, in an instant agreed upon their verdict—" Guilty."

The learned judge then proceeded to pass the sentence of the law upon the prisoner. He told him that his crime was of a nature so enormous that it was not in the power of words to aggravate it. His offence was of such a nature that it might not only have proved fatal to every person present, but have involved the whole British nation in ruin.

On the morning after his condemnation he said he was by birth a Scotsman, and had left Scotland in order to embark for America, where he had resided the greater part of his life. The diabolical scheme of setting fire to the dockyards and the shipping, he said, originated in his own wicked mind on the very breaking out of the rebellion in America; and he had no peace until he proceeded to put it in practice.

He was hanged at Portsmouth, in sight of the ruins which he had occasioned.

JOSEPH ARMSTRONG

Convicted of Murder, but cheated the Gallows by hanging himself, 17th of March, 1777

CAPTAIN A'COURT, a gentleman of fortune, intending to take his family on a visit to Cheltenham, hired Joseph Armstrong to attend them on such excursion, in the capacity of footman. It appears that his pertness and neglect soon disgusted Mrs A'Court, who requested her husband to discharge him. In revenge, he determined to poison her; in doing which he had the barbarity to keep her lingering in misery ten days. This he effected by putting arsenic, at different times, into her tea, of which, in that time, she expired in excruciating torment.

This being fully proved on his trial, he was sentenced to death; but when the jailer went to his cell, to summon him to his fate, it appeared that he had contrived to hang himself but a short time before, thus robbing the gallows of its deserved due, and preventing the wholesome example of the public execution of such a villain.

DAVID BROWN DIGNUM

Convicted, 5th of April, 1777, of fraudulently pretending to sell Places under Government, and sentenced to Hard Labour on the Thames

THE first public complaint made against David Brown Dignum was at the public office in Bow Street, by Mr John Clarke, who deposed that between the 18th of June and the 8th of July, 1776, he paid Dignum one hundred pounds, two shillings and tenpence, for investing him with the office of Clerk of the Minutes in his Majesty's custom-house in Dublin; that the above-mentioned sum was paid at different times in cash and drafts, and that the drafts were duly honoured by the parties on whom they were drawn.

Mr Clarke produced a stamped paper bearing the signature of Lord Weymouth, and countersigned Thomas Daw, which he deposed to have received from the prisoner as a legal warrant appointing him to the office in question. Mr Daw proved that the signature of Lord Weymouth and his own name were counterfeited; and it was evident that the seals had been taken from some instrument and affixed to the pretended warrant.

Dignum was charged with a similar offence by Mr Brown, from whom he obtained one thousand pounds under pretence of causing him to be appointed writer in *The London Gazette*.

Mr Brown produced a warrant bearing the similar marks of imposition with those exhibited in the former charge.

On the 5th of April, 1777, Dignum was indicted at the Guildhall, Westminster, for defrauding Mr Clarke by means of a forged warrant. The jury found him guilty, without leaving the court. The magistrates hesitated a long time on what punishment should be inflicted on so atrocious an offender, and at length sentenced him to work five years on the River Thames.

No time was now lost in conveying Dignum on board

the ballast-lighter. Being possessed of plenty of money, and having high notions of gentility, he went to Woolwich in a post-chaise, with his negro servant behind, expecting that his money would procure every indulgence in his favour, and that his servant would still be admitted to attend him. But in this he was egregiously mistaken: the keepers of the lighter would not permit the negro to come on board, and Dignum was immediately put to the duty of the wheelbarrow.

On Monday, the 5th of May, Dignum sent a forged draft for five hundred pounds for acceptance to Mr Drummond, banker, at Charing Cross, who, discovering the imposition, carried the publishers before Sir John Fielding; but they were discharged. It was then intended to procure a habeas corpus to remove Dignum to London for examination. This plan, however, was soon seen through; for on consideration it seemed evident that Dignum, by sending the forged draft from on board the lighter, preferred death to his situation; so that no further steps were taken in the affair, and Dignum remained a victim to the equitable laws of his country.

ANN MARROW

Pilloried at Charing Cross, 22nd of July, 1777, for marrying three Women

ANN MARROW was convicted at the Quarter Sessions for the city and liberty of Westminster, on the 5th of July, 1777, of going in men's clothes and personating a man in marriage, with three different women (Mary Hamilton, the reader will remember, played off this trick fourteen times), and defrauding them of their money and effects. She was sentenced to be imprisoned three months, and during that time to stand once in and upon the pillory, at Charing Cross.

Agreeably to the pillorying part of her sentence she was, on the 22nd of the same month, placed in the pillory; and so great was the resentment of the spectators, particularly

the female part, that they pelted her to such a degree that she lost the sight of both her eyes.

DR WILLIAM DODD

Doctor of Divinity, Prebendary of Brecon, Chaplain-in-Ordinary to his Majesty, and Minister to the Magdalen Hospital. Executed at Tyburn, 27th of June, 1777, for Forgery

THE apprehending of such a man as Doctor Dodd, on a charge of forgery, was a matter of surprise and conjecture among all ranks of people. He stood high in estimation as a divine, a popular preacher and an elegant scholar. He was the promoter of many public charities, and of some others he may be said to have been the institutor. The Magdalen for reclaiming Young Women who had swerved from the Path of Virtue, the Society for the Relief of Poor Debtors, and that of the Humane Society for the Recovery of Persons apparently Drowned, owed their institution to Dr Dodd. He was patronised by the King, and more immediately by Lord Chesterfield ; and his Church preferments were lucrative. It, however, appeared that his expenses outran his income, and for a supply of cash he committed a forgery on his late pupil, the Earl of Chesterfield.

Another singular circumstance in the life of Dr Dodd was his publication, a few years previous to his execution, of a sermon, entitled *The Frequency of Capital Punishment inconsistent with Justice, Sound Policy and Religion.* This, he said, was intended to have been preached at the Chapel Royal, at St James's ; but omitted on account of the absence of the Court during the author's month of waiting.

The method adopted in this forgery was remarkable. He pretended that the noble lord had urgent occasion to borrow four thousand pounds, but did not choose to be his own agent, and begged that the matter might be secretly and expeditiously conducted.

Published by the Navarre Societ, London

Dodd delin.

J. Lodge Sculp.

Dr. DODD and JOSEPH HARRIS,

at the place of Execution.

The Doctor employed one Lewis Robertson, a broker, to whom he presented a bond, not filled up or signed, that he might find a person who would advance the requisite sum to a young nobleman who had lately come of age. After applying to several persons who refused the business, because they were not to be present when the bond was executed, Mr Robertson, absolutely confiding in the Doctor's honour, applied to Messrs Fletcher & Peach, who agreed to lend the money. Mr Robertson returned the bond to the Doctor, in order to its being executed; and on the following day the Doctor produced it as executed, and witnessed by himself. Mr Robertson, knowing Mr Fletcher to be a particular man, and who would consequently object to one subscribing witness only, put his name under the Doctor's. He then went and received the money, which he paid into the hands of Dr Dodd—four thousand pounds—and produced the bond.

Lord Chesterfield was surprised, and immediately disowned it. Upon this Mr Manly went directly to Mr Fletcher to consult what steps to take. Mr Fletcher, a Mr Innes and Mr Manly went to the Guildhall, to prefer an information respecting the forgery against the broker and Dr Dodd. Mr Robertson was taken into custody, while Fletcher, Innes, Manly and two of the Lord Mayor's officers went to the house of the Doctor in Argyle Street.

They opened the business, and the Doctor was very much affected. Manly told him that if he would return the money it would be the only means of saving him. He instantly returned six notes of five hundred pounds each, making three thousand pounds. He drew on his banker for five hundred pounds, the broker returned one hundred pounds, the Doctor gave a second draft on his banker for two hundred pounds and a judgment on his goods for the remaining four hundred pounds. All this was done by the Doctor in full reliance on the honour of the parties that the bond should be returned to him cancelled; but, notwithstanding this restitution, he was taken before the Lord Mayor, and charged. The Doctor declared he had no intention to defraud Lord Chesterfield or the gentleman who advanced

the money. He hoped that the satisfaction he had made in returning the money would atone for his offence. He was pressed, he said, exceedingly for three hundred pounds to pay some bills due to tradesmen. He took this step as a temporary resource, and would have repaid it in half-a-year. "My Lord Chesterfield," added he, "cannot but have some tenderness for me, as my pupil. I love him, and he knows it. There is nobody wishes to prosecute. I am sure my Lord Chesterfield does not want my life. I hope he will show clemency to me. Mercy should triumph over justice." Clemency, however, was denied; and the Doctor was committed to the compter, in preparation for his trial. On the 19th of February Dr Dodd was put to the bar at the Old Bailey. When the evidence was gone through, the Court called upon the Doctor for his defence, which was as follows:—

My Lords and Gentlemen of the Jury,—Upon the evidence which has been this day produced against me I find it very difficult to address your Lordships; there is no man in the world who has a deeper sense of the heinous nature of the crime for which I stand indicted than myself. But, my Lords, I humbly apprehend, though no lawyer, that the moral turpitude and malignancy of the crime always, both in the eye of the law and of religion, consists in the intention. I am informed, my Lords, that the Act of Parliament on this head runs perpetually in this style, *with an intention to defraud*. Such an intention, my Lords and gentlemen of the jury, I believe, has not been attempted to be proved upon me, and the consequences that have happened, which have appeared before you, sufficiently prove that a perfect and ample restitution has been made. I leave it, my Lords, to you, and the gentlemen of the jury, to consider that if an unhappy man ever deviates from the law of right, yet if in the single first moment of recollection he does all that he can to make full and perfect amends, what, my Lords and gentlemen of the jury, can God and man desire further?

I must observe to your Lordships that though I have met with all candour in this court, yet I have been pursued with excessive cruelty: I have been prosecuted after the most express engagements, after the most solemn assurances, after the most delusive, soothing arguments of Mr Manly; I have been prosecuted with a cruelty scarcely to be paralleled. Oppressed as I am with infamy, loaded as I am with distress, sunk under this cruel prosecution, your Lordships and the gentlemen of the jury cannot think life a matter of any value to me. No, my Lords, I solemnly protest that death of all blessings would be the most pleasant to me after this pain. I have yet, my Lords, ties which call upon me—ties which render me desirous even to continue this miserable existence. I have a wife, my Lords, who for twenty-seven years has lived an unparalleled example of conjugal attachment and fidelity, and whose behaviour during this trying scene would draw tears of approbation, I am sure, even from the most inhuman. My Lords, I have creditors, honest men, who will lose much by my death. I hope, for the sake of justice towards them, some mercy will be shown to me. If, upon these whole, the considerations at all avail with you, my Lords, and you gentlemen of the jury—if, upon the most impartial survey of matters, not the slightest intention of injury can appear to anyone—and I solemnly declare it was in my power to replace it in three months—of this I assured Mr Robertson frequently, and had his solemn assurances that no man should be privy to it but Mr Fletcher and himself—and if no injury was done to any man upon earth, I then hope, I trust, I fully confide myself in the tenderness, humanity and protection of my country.

The jury retired for about ten minutes and then returned with a verdict that the prisoner was guilty; but at the same time presented a petition humbly recommending the Doctor to the Royal mercy.

The opinion of the judges was that he had been legally convicted.

Here he sunk down overcome with mental agony; and

some time elapsed before he was sufficiently recovered to hear the dreadful sentence of the law, which the recorder pronounced upon him in the following words :—

"Dr William Dodd, you have been convicted of the offence of publishing a forged and counterfeit bond, knowing it to be forged and counterfeited ; and you have had the advantage which the laws of this country afford to every man in that situation—a fair, an impartial and an attentive trial. The jury, to whose justice you appealed, have found you guilty ; their verdict has undergone the consideration of the learned judges, and they found no ground to impeach the justice of that verdict. You yourself have admitted the justice of it ; and now the very painful duty that the necessity of the law imposes upon the Court, to pronounce the sentence of that law against you, remains only to be performed. You appear to entertain a very proper sense of the enormity of the offence which you have committed ; you appear, too, in a state of contrition of mind, and I doubt not have duly reflected how far the dangerous tendency of the offence you have been guilty of is increased by the influence of example, in being committed by a person of your character, and of the sacred function of which you are a member. These sentiments seem to be yours. I would wish to cultivate such sentiments, but I would not wish to add to the anguish of a person in your situation by dwelling upon it. Your application for mercy must be made elsewhere : it would be cruel in the Court to flatter you. There is a power of dispensing mercy, where you may apply. Your own good sense and the contrition you express will induce you to lessen the influence of the example by publishing your hearty and sincere detestation of the offence of which you are convicted ; and that you will not attempt to palliate or extenuate, which would indeed add to the degree of the influence of a crime of this kind being committed by a person of your character and known abilities. I would therefore warn you against anything of that kind. Now, having said this, I am obliged to pronounce the sentence of the law, which is, that you, Dr William Dodd, be carried from hence to the place from

whence you came; that from thence you are to be carried to the place of execution, when you are to be hanged by the neck until you are dead."

To this Dr Dodd replied: "Lord Jesus receive my soul."

Great exertions were now made to save Dr Dodd: the newspapers were filled with letters and paragraphs in his favour; individuals of all ranks exerted themselves on his behalf; parish officers went in mourning from house to house to procure subscriptions to a petition to the King; and this petition, which, with the names, filled twenty-three sheets of parchment, was actually presented. Even the Lord Mayor and common council went in a body to St James's to solicit mercy for the convict.

As clemency, however, had been denied to the unfortunate Perreaus, it was deemed unadvisable to extend it to Dr Dodd. This unhappy clergyman was attended to the place of execution, in a mourning-coach, by the Rev. Mr Willette, ordinary of Newgate, and the Rev. Mr Dobey. Another criminal, named John Harris, was executed at the same time. Just before the parties were turned off the Doctor whispered to the executioner, and it was observed that the man had no sooner driven away the cart than he ran immediately under the gibbet and took hold of the Doctor's legs, as if to steady the body, and the unhappy man appeared to die without pain.

JOHN HARRISON

An Assurance Corporation Accountant, who was convicted of Forgery in 1777, but afterwards received his Majesty's Pardon

MR HARRISON was accountant to the London Assurance Corporation, and it was his peculiar misfortune to be acquainted with a Mr Angus Mackey, a merchant in the city in an extensive way of trade, who, by urgent solicitations, prevailed upon the unsuspecting and good-natured man to lend him several sums belonging to the company, solemnly promising to return the money before he would have occasion to make up his accounts.

When the time appointed for the first payment arrived, instead of returning what he had already got into his possession, Mackey urged Harrison for a further supply, assuring him that he was in daily expectation of remittances, on the receipt of which he would return the whole sum that Harrison was deficient in his account with the company; adding that, if he met with a refusal, he must inevitably stop payment, which would necessarily occasion an exposure of Harrison's violation of the trust reposed in him by the company.

In this manner was the unfortunate man pacified for several months, during which time he supplied Mackey with different sums, amounting in the whole to seven thousand, five hundred and fifty pounds; and, to prevent detection, he inserted figures in the book containing the account between the Bank of England and the London Assurance Company, so that the bank appeared to be debtor for seven thousand, five hundred and fifty pounds more than had been paid there.

He sent a clerk with two hundred and ten pounds to the bank, and when the book was returned to him he put a figure 3 before the 2, which made the sum appear three thousand pounds more than was really paid; and similar alterations were made in other parts of the book.

A committee of the company being appointed to meet on Wednesday, the 9th of July, 1777, Mr Harrison mentioned the circumstance to Mackey, and told him that he would be utterly ruined unless the deficiency in the company's cash was made good before that day: but, notwithstanding the life and reputation of his generous and imprudent friend were at stake, he neglected to return the money.

About eleven in the forenoon of the day on which the committee was to be held, Harrison placed several account-books on the table of the committee-room, and had some conversation with Alexander Aubert, Esq., the deputy governor. When the committee was about to be opened Harrison absconded; and about ten minutes after the following letter was received by Mr George Hall, secretary to the company:—

Dear Sir,—I am distressed beyond expression, having forfeited everything that is dear to me, by an act of kindness to a friend who has deceived me. Enclosed is a state of my account with the company, which tortures my very soul to think of it. I know the Treasury will not forgive me, therefore don't care what becomes of me, as I dare not see them any more. God Almighty knows what will become of me, or where I shall fly for succour. Indeed, Mr Hall, I am one of the most miserable wretches living, but I have betrayed my trust, for which I never can forgive myself. When I parted with the money, it was but for a few days, or I would sooner have died than have parted with it; but, alas! I shall now severely pay for suffering myself to be drawn in to serve a friend who knew it was not my own, and saw the distress of mind it cost me when I did it. Please to present my humble duty to the gentlemen: tell them I can meet any death after this sooner than I can see them again, and am determined not to survive the shame. I am, dear sir, a lost, unhappy being. I am so bewildered that I scarce know what I am doing, but believe the enclosed account is not right, as I don't recollect that I am any way short of cash; but in truth I am not myself. J. H.

When Harrison absconded he left upwards of one thousand, nine hundred pounds in his desk, and among his papers were found securities on behalf of the company to a great amount, besides a bond given to him by Mackey for seven thousand, five hundred and fifty pounds.

Notice being given at the office that Harrison was at a friend's house at Wapping, Mr Aubert went there in the evening, and found him in a state of mind little short of distraction. Mackey's bond was produced by Mr Aubert, and Harrison assigned it over to him as a security on behalf of the company. He accompanied Mr Aubert to the office, where two persons were ordered to attend him and prevent his putting an end to his life, which there was sufficient reason to suppose he would attempt; and the next morning he was taken before Sir John Fielding, who committed

him to Tothill Fields Bridewell. He was re-examined the following Wednesday, and committed to Newgate in preparation for his trial.

He was tried at the Old Bailey in the September sessions, 1777, on an indictment for forgery, consisting of twenty-four counts; on twelve of which the jury pronounced him guilty. The prisoner's counsel objected to judgment being passed, on account of a supposed inaccuracy in the indictment, and the matter was left to be argued by the judges.

Having remained in Newgate some months after his trial, Mr Harrison petitioned for the judges to meet, and that he might be heard by counsel. He was advised by an illustrious personage to waive the plea on which his petition was founded, and in consequence thereof the petition was immediately withdrawn. In a few days a messenger came to Newgate and delivered to Mr Harrison the agreeable news that his Majesty had been graciously pleased to grant him an unconditional pardon; and the same evening an order was delivered to Mr Akerman for his immediate enlargement.

Mr Harrison was brought up in a merchant's counting-house, and soon after the expiration of his apprenticeship he began business on his own account, and had a lime and coal wharf at Limehouse, where he carried on an extensive trade; but failing in that business, he engaged himself as a clerk to Mr Smithen, previous to that gentleman's undertaking to construct the Eddystone Lighthouse, and was entrusted with the care and management of all the money employed in that important work. His conduct under Mr Smithen was in every respect unexceptionable; and that gentleman and many other respectable persons used their interest to procure him the office of accountant to the London Assurance Company, in whose service he would in all probability have continued till his death but for his unhappy connection with Mackey.

Harrison had been accountant to the London Assurance Company nineteen years and a half when it was discovered

that he had betrayed the confidence reposed in him; and till that period his character was without a blemish, and he was held in the highest esteem by all of his acquaintances.

FRANCIS MERCIER otherwise LOUIS DE BUTTE

Executed in Prince's Street, opposite Swallow Street, in the City of Westminster, 8th of December, 1777, for Murder

THIS malefactor was a Frenchman, and was convicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey on the 6th of December, 1777, of the murder of Monsieur Jaques Mondroyte, his countryman, attended by singular circumstances of treachery and premeditated cruelty.

Jaques Mondroyte was a jeweller and watchmaker of Paris, and had made a journey to London in order to find a market for different articles of his manufacture. His stock consisted of curious and costly articles, worth, as was computed, a few thousand pounds. He took lodgings in Prince's Street, and engaged Mercier, who had resided some time in London, as his interpreter, on a liberal gratuity, and treated him as a friend.

It appeared that the ungrateful villain had long determined upon murdering his employer, in order effectually to possess himself of the whole of his valuable property.

To this diabolical end he gave orders for an instrument to be made of a singular construction. It was shaped somewhat like an Indian tomahawk, and this instrument of death he concealed until an opportunity offered to complete his detestable purpose.

One day his employer, Mondroyte, invited him to spend the evening; they played at cards, sang some French songs, and took a cheerful glass, but with that moderation from which Frenchmen seldom depart. Thus the time passed until it grew late, when the interpreter was asked to stay the night. The ungrateful villain pretended to hesitate, but at length assented.

As soon as all the inhabitants were wrapped in sleep, Mercier took from the lining of his coat, where he constantly carried it, the fatal weapon, with which he struck the unconscious victim repeatedly on the head until he was killed. He thrust the body into one of the trunks in which the owner had brought over his merchandise, and plundered the apartments. He then locked the doors and made his escape.

Next day he had the effrontery to return to the house and inquire whether Monsieur Mondroyte had set off, pretending that he had proposed a journey into the country; and the people of the house, concluding that he had let himself out before they had risen, and which accounted for their finding the street door on the latch, replied that he must have departed, giving that circumstance as a reason for such belief. This audacious farce was acted by the murderer for some days, during which time he frequently called to know whether his friend had returned.

The family, however, beginning to entertain suspicions of some foul play, procured a ladder, entered the chamber window, and soon discovered the body, which had been crammed into the trunk, and was beginning to putrefy.

A warrant was granted to apprehend Mercier, whom they took just as he was alighting from a post-chaise, in which he had been jaunting with a woman of the town. In his lodgings and on his person were found sixteen gold watches, some of great value, a great number of brilliant diamond and other rings, a variety of gold trinkets and seventy-five guineas.

On his examination he confessed the fact, which added to the proof that the manufactured articles had been the property of Mondroyte. He was convicted, and sentenced to be hanged on the following Monday.

He was accordingly carried to execution, opposite the place where he committed the murder.

JOHN HOLMES AND PETER WILLIAMS

Publicly whipped, by the Sentence of the Middlesex Court of Quarter Sessions, for December, 1777, for stealing Dead Bodies

THE sum of all our long list of thieves, and their different deceptions and modes of plunder, surely were those detested monsters of depravity who broke into the sacred deposit of the dead and robbed the graves of the bodies of our departed fellow-creatures, for the sole purpose of selling them to surgeons for dissection.

The impious robbers were vulgarly called, in London, "Resurrection Men," but rather should have been called "Sacrilegious Robbers of our Holy Church," not even confining the unnatural crime to men alone. The gentler sex were connected in this horrid traffic, whose business it was to strip off the shroud, or whatever garments in which the body might have been wrapped, and sell them, while the men, through the darkness of night, dragged the naked bodies to be anatomised.

When Hunter, the famous anatomist, was in full practice, he had a surgical theatre behind his house, in Windmill Street, where he gave lectures to a very numerous class of pupils. To this place such numbers of dead bodies were brought during the winter season that the mob rose several times, and were upon the point of pulling down his house. He had a well dug in the back part of his premises, wherein was thrown the putrid flesh, and with it alkalines, in order to hasten the consumption thereof.

Numberless were the instances of dead bodies seized to be carried to the surgeons. Hackney-coachmen, for an extra fare, and porters with hampers, were often employed by these resurrection men for this purpose.

A monthly publication, in March, 1776, says: "The remains of more than twenty bodies were discovered in a shed in Tottenham Court Road, supposed to have been deposited there by traders to the surgeons; of whom there

is one, it is said, in the borough, who makes an open profession of dealing in dead bodies, and is well known by the name of 'The Resurrectionist.'"

Still more shocking was it to be told that men who were paid for protecting the sacred deposit of the mortal remains of their fellow-parishioners were often confederates with those carcass stealers, as the present case will demonstrate.

Holmes, the principal villain in this case, was gravedigger of St George's, Bloomsbury; Williams was his assistant, and a woman, named Esther Donaldson, an accomplice. They were all indicted for stealing the dead body of Mrs Jane Sainsbury, who departed this life on the 9th of October, then last past, and the corpse was interred in the burying-ground of St George's on the Monday following. They were detected before they could secure their booty; and the widower determined, however unpleasant, to prosecute them. In order to their conviction he had to undergo the mental pain of viewing and identifying the remains of his wife!

The gravedigger and his deputy were convicted on the fullest evidence; and it was regretted that it did not reach the woman, though no doubt remained of her equal guilt. She therefore was released, but Holmes and Williams were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and to be whipped twice on their bare backs, from the end of Kingsgate Street, Holborn, to Diot Street, St Giles's, being half-a-mile, and which was inflicted with the severity due to so detestable an offence, through crowds of exulting spectators.

JAMES ELLIOT

Executed at Maidstone, in March, 1778, for a Forgery on the Bank of England, attended with Circumstances which were left to the Twelve Judges for determination

JAMES ELLIOT had committed forgeries on the Bank of England; but, some intricacy appearing in the case, the solicitor laid five different counts in his indictment, and,

though convicted, his case went before the twelve judges, as is customary whenever a doubt arises in the breast of the judge who may try the prisoner.

The following is a sketch of the evidence given upon his trial, which came on at Maidstone, the 24th of July, 1777.

The prisoner had applied to a mould-maker for a pair of fine moulds, in the manner of bills of exchange or notes of hand. He brought three copper-plates, purporting to be notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England —one for one hundred pounds, one for fifty pounds, and one for twenty pounds—and he gave ten guineas for the three.

A copper-plate printer, of the name of Ryland, swore that he had printed off twenty-five fifty-pound notes and twenty-five of the twenty-pound plate, for which Elliot gave him three guineas, though the usual price was no more than one shilling and sixpence per hundred. These notes were produced in court, and Ryland swore they were the same which he printed, and one in particular of the fifty pounds which was filled up, and upon which the indictment was founded.

This note was very defective, and, among other faults, the word *pounds* was even left out after the word *fifty*. Upon this, Elliot's counsel started a point of law on this question : whether that could be called a counterfeit where so essential a part was omitted, without which no specific value could be fixed.

The prisoner was, however, found guilty, but his case was reserved for the opinion of the twelve judges. Sentence was accordingly deferred.

On the 5th of March, 1778, he was again called to the bar, and informed that the judges had overruled his motion ; and sentence of death was immediately passed upon him.

GEORGE ROACH, ROBERT ELLIOT AND JONAS PARKER

Who were convicted, the first two of stealing, and the other of receiving Part of a Lead Coffin from Aldermanbury Church, in 1778

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey in April, 1778, these men were indicted, the first two for stealing a lead coffin, of three hundred pounds' weight, value five pounds, the property of William Thornton Aston, Esq., and Parker for receiving fifty pounds' weight of the lead, value five shillings, knowing the same to have been stolen. The second count in the indictment laid the lead to be the property of the parishioners of Aldermanbury, and stolen by Roach and Elliot; and the third count charged Jonas Parker with receiving it, being the property of the parishioners of Aldermanbury, well knowing it to have been stolen.

William Thornton Aston, Esq., deposed that, on the 1st of January preceding, his brother was interred in a leaden coffin, in the church of Aldermanbury; that the coffin was stolen out of the church, and was missed on the 7th of March.

James Gould, who had been admitted an evidence, deposed that Roach, Elliot and himself were journeymen carpenters, working under Mr Augurs in the repair of the church. He said that on Friday, the 6th of March, he and Roach went into the vault and unscrewed all the screws of Mr Thornton's coffin except two, after which they returned to their work; and that afterwards they and Elliot agreed to work again on the coffin.

On the Saturday morning they went to the church, and about five o'clock a watchman followed them in and desired a board to be planed, which was done by Gould. The accomplices then loosened the other screws and turned the coffins bottom upwards, taking off the outside coffin, and leaving only the shell. They then cut the leaden coffin in

pieces, and, replacing the other coffin on the shell, screwed it down again. These transactions lasted them till nearly eight in the morning, when they took the pieces of the coffin and, having concealed them under the children's gallery, conferred about selling what they had stolen, when Elliot mentioned Parker, in Grub Street, as a likely purchaser.

The lead being in two pieces, Gould put one of them in a bag and took it away, and the other was put in a basket and carried by one of the accomplices. When they got to London Wall, Elliot beckoned Gould, and they went to a shop, where they offered the lead for sale to a person, who refused to be the purchaser. They then went to Parker's, who weighed the lead without asking them any questions, said it was forty-two pounds, and paid them three shillings and sixpence for it, being at the rate of a penny a pound. When they were going away with the empty bag Mr Augurs's apprentice came in and seized Gould, and desired Parker, who was a constable, to assist in conveying him and Elliot to Mr Augurs. Parker said: "You had better go to your master and try to make the matter up." They went, and were all charged with the felony. Parker said: "Give them a *trevalle* for it."

Gould, being asked what was meant by that term, said he did not know exactly, but supposed it was a hint to attempt making their escape; on which they *made a run for it* (to use his own words), and Parker likewise ran away; but they were stopped and taken into custody before they got any considerable distance.

All the prisoners called persons who gave them good characters; but the jury, having fully considered the nature of the evidence, gave a verdict that they were guilty: in consequence of which, at the close of the sessions, Roach and Elliot were sentenced to labour three years on the Thames, and Parker to be imprisoned for a like term of time.

ALEXANDER SCOTT

City of London hoaxed by a False Proclamation of War, April, 1778

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey in June, 1778, Alexander Scott was indicted for that he, on the 23rd of April last, unlawfully, wickedly and maliciously did publish false news, whereby discord, or occasion of discord, might grow between our Lord the King and his people, or the great men of the realm, by publishing a certain printed paper containing such false news; which said printed paper is of the tenor following:—

"In pursuance of his Majesty's Order in Council to me directed, these are to give public notice that war with France will be proclaimed on Friday next, the 24th instant, at the Palace Royal, St James's, at one of the clock, of which all heralds and pursuivants-at-arms are to take notice, and give their attendance accordingly. Given under my hand this 22nd day of April, 1778.

"EFFINGHAM, D.M."

In this case the prisoner was imposed on by the artifices of some man who wished to take advantage of the credulity of the good people of England.

Scott was a bill-sticker. Between ten and eleven o'clock on the night of the 22nd of April, 1778, a person muffled up in a greatcoat, and having his hat strapped, went to the prisoner, and told him he came from Mr Strahan, the King's printer, saying, "You stick up bills for him?" Scott answered in the affirmative. The man said he wanted him to stick up some bills in the morning, saying he must stick some round the Exchange, and one at Wood Street, where war was to be proclaimed; and he demanded what Scott wanted for his trouble. The latter inquired how many bills he had, and the stranger said only a dozen. Scott said he would not charge Mr Strahan anything; but the other said he desired he should be paid, and asked if five shillings

would do. Scott said it was too much; but his employer insisted on his taking the money, saying it was a thing that did not happen every day.

In the morning Scott stuck up nine of the bills about the Royal Exchange, and one at the end of Wood Street; and as he is an engine-keeper, as well as a bill-sti ker, he went afterwards before Justice Girdler to make affidavit respecting a fire that had happened.

Meanwhile the town was alarmed by the supposed extraordinary news: stocks fell one per cent.[1]; and the circumstance coming to the knowledge of the Lord Mayor he sent to the west end of the town to inquire into the truth of the affair, and found it was all an imposition.

In the meantime Richard Willis having seen Scott stick up some bills at the Royal Exchange, and Thomas Thorn, one of the Exchange keepers, having taken them down, by order of the Lord Mayor, Joseph Gates, an officer, traced Scott to the Golden Cross, a public-house opposite Justice Girdler's, and told him he must go before the Lord Mayor, for he had been guilty of high treason. Scott said: "I hope not; I have a family of children." Scott said, on his trial, that he had read the proclamation, and did not know but that it was true; but he had never seen his employer since that time.

On the trial, the Earl of Effingham, Deputy Marshal of England, under the Duke of Norfolk, deposed that the paper was not printed by his direction; that he knew nothing of it till after it was stuck up, nor gave any authority to any person to print or publish such a paper.

The jury did not hesitate to give a verdict that the prisoner was *not guilty*.

[1] Perhaps this is a sum greatly inferior to what the inventor of the scheme supposed they would have fallen.

THOMAS HORNER AND JAMES FRYER

Executed for Burglary and Robbery under Threats of Violence, 24th of June, 1778

THE trial of these prisoners took place at the Old Bailey sessions in April, 1778. It appeared that on the evening of the 1st of March the prisoners, with three other men, were seen at Finchley together, and that while drinking in a public-house they made many inquiries of the persons present with regard to the house and family of a Mr Clewen, a gentleman of respectability who resided in the neighbourhood. The same night, between twelve and one o'clock, Mr Clewen's house was entered by five persons, whose faces were disguised, and the noise created by their rushing upstairs was heard by Miss Clewen and her servant, who immediately ran out of their bedchambers to see what was the matter. They were forced to return, however, for three of the men entered their room, and compelled them to cover their heads with the bedclothes, uttering loud threats of violence if they offered any resistance. The men-servants, who slept at the top of the house, being now alarmed, the thieves proceeded to their apartment, and one of them, named Quick, having got up, received a severe blow with an iron bar, and, like his mistress, was compelled, with his fellows, to cover himself up with the bedclothes. Two fellows then remained to watch them, while the rest went to Mr Clewen's room and treated him in the same manner, and then they proceeded to the bedchamber of his son, whom they forced to go to his father's bed, holding his hands before his eyes so that he should not distinguish who were his assailants. They then ransacked the house, and in about half-an-hour returned, and said that if young Clewen would tell them where the money was they would give him his watch, which they had taken from under his pillow. This being refused they went away, saying that they were only going for some victuals and would return.

The house was then immediately examined by Mr Clewen,

when it was found that the thieves had effected an entrance by means of the back door, and that they had fastened up that as well as the front entrance by nailing staples over the locks. It was afterwards discovered that they had carried off twenty-two guineas, fifty pounds in bank-notes, a quantity of plate, several gold rings, a silver watch, and other property to a considerable amount. Information of the robbery was immediately conveyed to Sir John Fielding, whose officers, recognising the offenders from the description given of their persons, succeeded in securing the prisoners—Fryer at a small house which he occupied in the City Road, where were found a number of picklock keys and a hanger; and Horner at his lodgings in Perkins' Rents, Westminster, a cutlass being concealed under his bed. Two supposed accomplices, named Condon and Jordan, were also apprehended, but nothing distinct was proved against them, so they escaped. Jordan, however, was afterwards convicted for a second burglary in Copenhagen House, for which he received sentence of death.

Conviction having followed the production of this evidence, sentence of death was passed. Upon the Sacrament being administered to Horner and Fryer they admitted their guilt, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of June, 1778. The other offenders were subsequently also apprehended and executed.

FRANCIS LEWIS otherwise GRIMISON

Cobweb as a Clue to a Bogus Burglary committed by a Butler, who was executed at Tyburn, 24th of June, 1778

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey in April, 1778, Francis Lewis otherwise Grimison was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Thomas Edmondes, Esq., on the night of the 14th of March preceding, and stealing a gold ring set with diamonds, valued at forty pounds, and a variety of plate and other valuable articles, to a very large amount.

The facts are these. The prisoner was butler in the family; his master was out of town, and had discharged the footman before he went. Grimison and three maids were all the servants that were left in the house with Mrs Edmondes. The prisoner, who was a married man, had asked for permission to go to see his wife. He returned about ten at night. Mary Giles, the cook, fastened the door of the area a little before one in the morning. The prisoner slept in the pantry; so that she went to bed and left him in the kitchen.

About three in the morning, as the watchman was passing, he heard a pistol fired in Mr Edmondes's house, on which he rattled with his stick against the iron bars of the area near which the prisoner lay; but receiving no answer he cried the hour, and at half-past three, as he was going his rounds, he heard the prisoner cry out: "O Lord! I shall be dead!" The watchman called out to know what was the matter; and the prisoner answered there were rogues and villains in the house, and he should be dead. The watchman then asked why he did not open the door. He said he could not, for he was tied.

On this the watchman knocked till two servant-maids came down, who found the prisoner tied in his bed, both his hands being tied to his ankles. He said that the house had been broken open; that three men came in; that the age of two of them was from thirty to six-and-thirty, and the other from twenty to four-and-twenty; that they had greatcoats on, and flapped hats; that one held a knife to him, and stood over him all the time, while the other two robbed the house.

Mary Robson, one of the above-mentioned servant-maids, deposed that the prisoner said three men came in, and he fired a pistol at one; and then they tied his hands and legs, and asked where his mistress's jewels were, and where his mistress lay; that then they took the plate out of the closet. She further deposed that he said that the plate was all carried away; that they insisted on having the key, and he gave it to them out of his pocket; that they doubled a silver tea-

board together, tied it up in a tablecloth, and carried it away.

Information of this transaction having been given at Bow Street, three persons were apprehended, supposed to be those that the prisoner had described; but they were discharged on his saying they were not the men who had robbed his master.

The day after the robbery was committed Mr Clarke went from Sir John Fielding's office to examine how the burglary had been committed. When he came to Mr Edmondes's house he saw the prisoner sitting by the fire, who had two marks, as if cut with a knife. Mr Clarke took him to the area, on the outside of which was a brick a little broken, on which the robbers were supposed to have stepped. Clarke desired the cook to put up the shutters as they were on the preceding night. She did so. He asked if they were bolted or barred. She said both. He demanded if she would swear before a magistrate that they were bolted and barred. She said she would not swear that she bolted the place, but would swear that she barred it.

Clarke observed that the bar was a little broken, and that it went into a tenterhook, which would have been wrenched if the place had been forced open. But the most remarkable circumstance was this: a pane of glass was broken on the inside of which was a cobweb, which was in such a direction that it would have been carried away if anyone had come through the window.

Clarke now examined the door, and finding that all the force which had been used was on the inside he had no doubt but that the robbery had been committed by some person within the house; on which he told Mr and Mrs Edmondes his opinion of the affair. But the latter seemed very unwilling to admit even a suspicion to the prejudice of the prisoner.

Mr Clarke then showed the lady the place, and asked her if she had given the prisoner leave to go out on the preceding night. She said she had permitted him to go to see his wife. Clarke, finding that he was married, said: "Depend on it,

the things are at his wife's" ; and, having obtained a direction where she lodged, he dispatched Charles Jealous and another person to the house of a grocer in Goswell Street. There they learned that she had removed to Holywell Street, Clare Market, where they found her, having in her possession a large trunk, with a quantity of plate and clothes in it.

The woman, being taken before Sir John Fielding, acknowledged that she was wife to the prisoner, that they were his lodgings, and that he himself had taken them.

In the interim the husband was taken into custody by Clarke, who desired him to acquaint him where the rest of the plate was, that no imputation might lie against the characters of the other servants. On this he acknowledged that he had thrown it into the cistern of his master's house. Thereupon Clarke went to the house and found the plate at the bottom of the cistern ; and among other articles a large waiter bent double.

This and many other pieces of plate were produced in court, and sworn to by the prosecutor : on which the jury gave a verdict that the prisoner was guilty of stealing the goods in the dwelling-house ; and at the close of the sessions he received sentence of death.

Of the behaviour of this malefactor after conviction no particular account is transmitted to us. Nor were endeavours exerted to save him, because it was justly presumed that he was unworthy of the Royal mercy.

Francis Lewis otherwise Grimison was executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of June, 1778.

JAMES DONALLY

A Blackmailer, who was convicted of Highway Robbery, 22nd of February, 1779

JAMES DONALLY was examined at Bow Street on a charge of having extorted money, by the vilest of all insinuations, from the Honourable Charles Fielding, second son of the Earl of Denbigh ; and the magistrates, deeming

that the offence amounted to a robbery on the highway, committed him for trial; and Lord Denbigh was bound to prosecute on behalf of his son, who was under age.

James Donally *alias* Patrick Donally was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in February, 1779, for "that he, on the King's highway, in and upon the Honourable Charles Fielding, did make an assault, putting him in corporal fear and danger of his life, and stealing from his person, and against his will, half-a-guinea, on the 18th of January"; and there was a second count in the indictment for robbing the same gentleman of a guinea on the 20th of the same month.

Between six and seven in the evening of the 18th of January, Mr Charles Fielding was going from the house of a lady with whom he had dined to Covent Garden Theatre, when he was accosted in Soho Square by Donally, who desired he would give him some money. Mr Fielding, astonished at this address, asked him for what. Donally said he had better comply, or he would take him before a magistrate and swear that he had made an attempt to commit a most foul crime.

Terrified by this insinuation the young gentleman gave him half-a-guinea, which was all the money he had about him; and returned to the house where he had dined and borrowed half-a-guinea of the servant, with an intention of going to the play.

Two days afterwards he again met the prisoner in Oxford Road, when he repeated his threats of carrying him before a magistrate, and to prison; saying that he knew very well what had passed in Soho Square the other night, and that unless he would give him some more money he would take him before a magistrate and accuse him of the same attempt at crime which he had threatened the other night. He added that it would go hard with him unless he could prove an *alibi*.

Terrified by these threatenings, Mr Fielding went to Mr Waters, a grocer in Bond Street, to whom, under the immediate impressions of his fear, he gave a guinea to give to the prisoner.

It happened, providentially, that on Saturday, the 12th of February, Lord Fielding was going up Hay Hill, when Donally, owing to the great personal likeness to his brother, accosted him in words which he did not rightly understand. His lordship said he believed he had mistaken him for some other person, for he did not know his face. Donally said he believed he must know him, and asked if he did not remember giving him half-a-guinea in Soho Square. He likewise mentioned the money given him at the grocer's—a knowledge of which his lordship, as well he might, utterly denied.

The prisoner again asked if he did not recollect having given him any money, when his lordship asked him what was his present demand; and when requested to explain himself, some further altercation ensued; on which Lord Fielding desired the prisoner to go before a magistrate, with which he seemed to comply, but at length stopped and said he would not go. During this contest his lordship was somewhat terrified; and, scarcely knowing what kind of charge to make against the prisoner, he was, as he owned on the trial, "weak enough to loose his collar and let him go." Donally then turned about, addressed him by the title of "My Lord," and said he should hear from him again.

On the Tuesday following, as Lord Fielding was walking near the same spot, he heard a voice over his shoulder saying: "Sir, I have met you again," or some such expression. His lordship, recollecting the voice, turned round and seized him by the collar. Donally complained that he had used him very ill the last time he saw him. The other replied that he used him too well, for he had let him go, but he would take care to do better this time.

Donally now desired to be treated like a *gentleman*, saying he would not be dragged, but would go quietly. Lord Fielding, not seeing any person who was likely to assist him, and apprehending a rescue, told him that if he would walk along quietly to the next coffee-house he would not drag him. They walked down Dover Street together; but the prisoner increased his pace, so Lord Fielding followed, and seized

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REVd Jr HACKMAN.
MISS REAY

him. He fell down twice, but was again seized as soon as he rose.

By this time a crowd had assembled: and Major Hartley and two other gentlemen happening to come by, the prisoner was seized and conveyed to Bow Street, where the magistrates, on hearing the evidence, thought that the crime amounted to a highway robbery, and committed the prisoner for trial accordingly.

Donally, in his defence, acknowledged that he had met Lord Fielding twice; that he had addressed him with decency, and desired him to hear something respecting his brother; and that Sir John Fielding had made the Honourable Charles Fielding carry on the prosecution. He did not deny the receipt of a guinea at the grocer's in Bond Street; but averred that he did not deserve death on account of the charge against him.

Mr Fielding swore that he had given the same account at Bow Street as on the trial, and the jury, having considered the whole evidence, brought in a verdict of guilty; but Mr Justice Buller, before whom the offender was tried, reserved the case for the opinion of the judges, on a point of law.

On the 29th of April following, the judges met and gave their opinion on this case, pronouncing it a new species of robbery to evade the law, but which was *not* to be evaded. He therefore underwent its sentence, which he had, with most abominable wickedness, brought upon his own head.

THE REV. JAMES HACKMAN

Executed at Tyburn, 19th of April, 1779, for murdering Miss Reay outside Covent Garden Theatre

MR JAMES HACKMAN was born at Gosport, in Hampshire, and originally designed for trade; but he was too volatile in disposition to submit to the drudgery of the shop or counting-house. His parents, willing to promote his interest as far as lay in their power, purchased

him an ensign's commission in the 68th Regiment of Foot. He had not been long in the army when he was sent to command a recruiting party, and being at Huntingdon he was frequently invited to dine with Lord Sandwich, who had a seat in that neighbourhood. There it was that he first became acquainted with Miss Reay, who lived under the protection of that nobleman.

This lady was the daughter of a staymaker in Covent Garden, and served her apprenticeship to a mantua-maker in George's Court, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell. She was bound when only thirteen, and during her apprenticeship was taken notice of by the nobleman above mentioned, who took her under his protection, and treated her with every mark of tenderness. No sooner had Mr Hackman seen her than he became enamoured of her, though she had then lived for nineteen years with his lordship. Finding he could not obtain preferment in the army, he turned his thoughts to the Church, and entered into orders. Soon after he obtained the living of Wiverton, in Norfolk, which was only about Christmas preceding the shocking deed which cost him his life, so that it may be said he never enjoyed it.

Miss Reay was extremely fond of music, and as her noble protector was in a high rank we need not be surprised to find that frequent concerts were performed both in London and at Hinchinbrook. At the latter place Mr Hackman was generally of the party, and his attention to her at those times was very great. How long he had been in London previous to this affair is not certainly known, but at that time he lodged in Duke's Court, St Martin's Lane. On the morning of the 7th of April, 1779, he sat some time in his closet, reading Dr Blair's *Sermons*; but in the evening he took a walk to the Admiralty, where he saw Miss Reay go into the coach along with Signora Galli, who attended her. The coach drove to Covent Garden Theatre, where she stayed to see the performance of *Love in a Village*. Mr Hackman went into the theatre at the same time, but, not being able to contain the violence of his passion, returned to his lodgings, and having loaded two pistols again went to the playhouse,

where he waited till the play was over. As Miss Reay was ready to step into the coach he took a pistol in each hand, one of which he discharged against her, which killed her on the spot, and the other at himself, which, however, did not take effect.

He then beat himself on his head with the butt-end, in order to destroy himself, so fully bent was he on the destruction of both. After some struggle he was secured, and his wounds dressed. He was then carried before Sir John Fielding, who committed him to Tothill Fields Bridewell, and next to Newgate, where a person was appointed to attend him, lest he should lay violent hands on himself. In Newgate, as he knew he had no favour to expect, he prepared himself for the awful change he was about to make. He had dined with his sister on the day the murder was committed, and in the afternoon had written a letter to her husband, Mr Booth, an eminent attorney, acquainting him with his resolution of destroying himself.

At the trial the jury pronounced their fatal verdict, and the unhappy man heard the sentence against him with calm resignation to his fate.

During the procession to the fatal tree at Tyburn he seemed much affected, and said but little; and when he arrived at Tyburn, and got out of the coach and mounted the cart, he took leave of Dr Porter and the ordinary. After some time spent in prayer he was turned off, and, having hung the usual time, his body was carried to Surgeons' Hall for dissection.

JAMES MATHISON

Who forged Bank-Notes so cleverly that they could not be distinguished from Genuine Ones. Executed at Tyburn, 28th of July, 1779

JAMES MATHISON was one of the cleverest bank-note forgers ever brought to justice. His counterfeits deceived the greatest experts, and he succeeded in passing many of his notes in different parts of the country. The

particular forgery here charged on him was for making and uttering a note for payment of twenty pounds, with intent to defraud Mr Mann, of Coventry, and the Bank of England. The note was produced in court, and witnesses were brought to prove its having been negotiated by him.

This fact being established, the next circumstance in consideration was to prove that the note was absolutely a counterfeit one. This his prosecutors were totally unable to do by any testimony they could adduce, so minutely and so dexterously had he feigned all the different marks. The note itself was not only so made as to render it altogether impossible for any human eyes to perceive a difference, but the very hands of the cashier and the entering clerk were also so counterfeited as entirely to preclude a positive discrimination even by those persons themselves. The watermark in the paper too—namely, "Bank of England"—which the bankers had considered as an infallible criterion of fair notes, a mark which could not be resembled by any possible means, was also hit off by this man, so as to put it out of the power of the most exact observer to perceive a difference. Several paper-makers were of opinion that this mark must have been put on in the making of the paper; but Mathison declared that he put it on afterwards by a peculiar method, known only to himself. The extreme similitude of the fair and false notes had such an effect upon the judge and jury that the prisoner would certainly have been discharged, for want of evidence to prove the counterfeit, if his own information, taken at Fielding's, had not been produced against him, which immediately turned the scale, and he was found guilty.

He was executed at Tyburn, pursuant to his sentence, on 28th of July, 1779. At the place of execution he made a speech which took up some minutes, wherein he acknowledged his guilt, and hoped for forgiveness from the Almighty. He also warned others to avoid the crime for which he suffered, and forgave his prosecutors.

A. DURNFORD AND W. NEWTON

Executed at Tyburn, 22nd of November, 1780, for a Robbery under singular Circumstances

IT was proved on their trial at the Old Bailey that these two men hired an empty house, No. 21 Water Lane, Fleet Street, and having a bill of exchange lying at the bank of Smith, Wright & Grey, they directed it for payment at this house. They made preparations for cleaning, in order, as they pretended, to furnish it with dispatch; but the landlord, not liking this extraordinary haste, or his new tenants, desired Mrs Boucher, the mistress of a public-house opposite, to keep an eye on their proceedings.

Accordingly, on the day this sham bill became due, being the 5th of August, 1780, she observed the new tenants, Durnford and Newton, enter the house and open the parlour windows. Soon after she saw a third man knock at the door, which was opened, and he entered. Watching events, she heard an uncommon noise, and, stepping over the way to listen, heard a cry of murder, as from a hoarse faint voice, succeeded by a kind of groaning, which very much alarmed her. Looking through the keyhole, she saw two men dragging a third down the cellar stairs, on which she cried out loudly: "They're murdering a man!" She knocked hard at the door, and begged the people in the street to break it open; but none would interfere. Being enraged at their not assisting her, she burst open the window, and was entering the house when Newton jumped out of the first pair-of-stairs window, and was running off, but on the cry of "Stop thief!" he was instantly taken, and the other she seized by the throat herself, and dragged him to her own house.

The house was then immediately searched, and in a back cellar was found a man, bound and nearly choked, to prevent his calling out. He proved to be a collecting clerk for Smith, Wright & Grey, named James Watts. They had robbed him of his pocket-book, and would have murdered him had not this woman saved his life.

Mr Watts was a young Quaker, aged eighteen, and would not, according to the doctrines of that sect, be sworn, which is required by the law in all cases of life and death; so that their conviction rested chiefly on the evidence of Mrs Boucher, though not a shadow of a doubt remained of their guilt.

Both prisoners were convicted, and executed at Tyburn, on the 22nd of November, 1780.

LORD GEORGE GORDON

An Account of the Riots in London in 1780

THE origin of what are known as the Gordon Riots, in London in 1780, is ascribed to the passing of an Act of Parliament, about two years previously, for "relieving his Majesty's subjects, of the Catholic Religion, from certain penalties and disabilities imposed upon them during the reign of William III." A petition to Parliament was framed for its repeal, and a general meeting of a body of people, forming the Protestant Association, headed by Lord George Gordon, was held on the 29th of May, at the Coachmakers' Hall, Noble Street, Aldersgate Street. At this meeting the noble lord moved the following resolutions:—

"Whereas no hall in London can contain forty thousand persons,

"*Resolved*,—That this association do meet on Friday next in St George's Fields, at ten o'clock in the morning, to consider the most prudent and respectful manner of attending their petition, which will be presented the same day to the House of Commons.

"*Resolved*,—For the sake of good order and regularity, that this association, in coming to the ground, do separate themselves into four divisions—viz. the London division, the Westminster division, the Southwark division, and the Scotch division.

"*Resolved*,—That the London division do take place of the ground towards Southwark; the Westminster division

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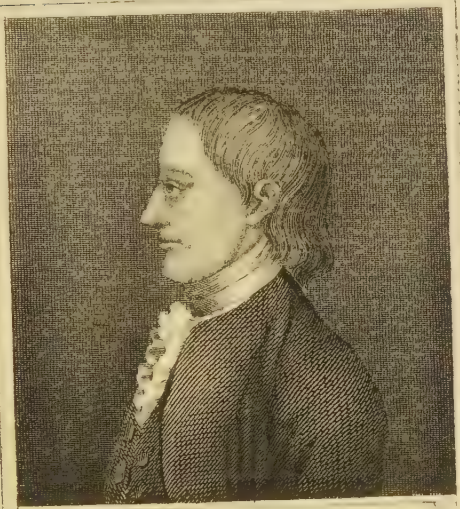

LORD GEORGE GORDON.

second; the Southwark division third; and the Scotch division upon the left, all wearing blue cockades, to distinguish themselves from the Papists and those who approve of the late Act in favour of Popery.

"*Resolved*,—That the magistrates of London, Westminster and Southwark are requested to attend, that their presence may overawe and control any riotous or evil-minded persons who may wish to disturb the legal and peaceable deportment of his Majesty's subjects."

His lordship having intimated that he would not present the petition unless twenty thousand persons attended the meeting, and the resolutions having been published and placarded through the streets, on the day appointed a vast concourse of people from all parts of the City and its environs assembled in St George's Fields. The main body took their route over London Bridge, marching in order, six or eight in a rank, through the City towards Westminster, accompanied by flags bearing the words "No Popery." At Charing Cross the mob was increased by additional numbers on foot, on horseback, and in various vehicles, so that, by the time the different parties met together, all the avenues to both Houses of Parliament were entirely filled with the crowd. The rabble now took possession of all the passages leading to the House of Commons, from the outer doors to the very entrance for the Members, which latter they twice attempted to force open; and a like attempt was made at the House of Lords, but without success in either instance. In the meantime Lord George Gordon came into the House of Commons with an unembarrassed countenance, and a blue cockade in his hat, but finding it gave offence he took it out and put it in his pocket—not, however, before Captain Herbert, of the navy, one of the Members, threatened to pull it out; while Colonel Murray, another Member, declared that, if the mob broke into the House, he (looking at Lord George) should instantly be the victim.

The petition having been presented, the populace separated into parties and proceeded to demolish the Catholic chapels in Duke Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, and Warwick

Street, Golden Square; and all the furniture, ornaments and altars of both chapels were committed to the flames. After various other outrages the prison of Newgate was attacked. They demanded from the keeper, Mr Ackerman, the release of their confined associates. He refused to comply; yet, dreading the consequence, he went to the sheriffs to know their pleasure. On his return he found his house in flames, and the jail itself was soon in a similar situation. The doors and entrances were broken open with crowbars and sledge-hammers; and it is scarcely to be credited with what rapidity this strong prison was destroyed. The public office in Bow Street and Sir John Fielding's house, adjoining, were soon destroyed, and all their furniture and effects, books, papers, etc., committed to the flames. Justice Coxe's house in Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, was similarly treated; and the two prisons at Clerkenwell set open and the prisoners liberated. The King's Bench Prison, with some houses adjoining, a tavern and the New Bridewell were also set on fire, and almost entirely consumed.

The mob now appeared to consider themselves as superior to all authority; they declared their resolution to burn all the remaining public prisons, and demolish the Bank, the Temple, Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, the Mansion House, the Royal palaces, and the arsenal at Woolwich. The attempt upon the Bank of England was actually made twice in the course of one day; but both attacks were but feebly conducted and the rioters easily repulsed, several of them falling by the fire of the military, and many others being severely wounded.

To form an adequate idea of the distress of the inhabitants in every part of the City would be impossible. Six-and-thirty fires were to be seen blazing in the metropolis during the night.

At length the continuous arrival of fresh troops, from all parts of the country within fifty or sixty miles of the metropolis, intimidated the rabble; and soon after the disturbances were quelled.

The Royal Exchange, the public buildings, the squares and the principal streets were all occupied by troops. The shops were closed; while immense volumes of dense smoke were still rising from the ruins of consumed edifices.

During the riots many persons, terrified by the alarming outrages of the mob, fled from London and took refuge at places at a considerable distance from town.

The number of persons killed is variously stated. Many persons, strangers to the attempt, were destroyed by the necessarily indiscriminate fire of the soldiers and militia; and although it is impossible to calculate the precise number who lost their lives, from the circumstance of many being carried off by their friends, it is believed to be about five hundred.

Lord George Gordon, the leader and instigator of these riots, was subsequently tried in the Court of King's Bench, but escaped conviction. There was little doubt that he was occasionally subject to aberrations of intellect. His death took place some years afterwards in the King's Bench Prison. He had been indicted for a libel on Marie Antoinette, the unfortunate French Queen, and the Count d'Adhemar, the French Ambassador, and, having been convicted, fled from punishment, but was afterwards apprehended in Birmingham, attired in the garb of a Jew, with a long beard, etc., where he had undergone circumcision, and had embraced the religion of the unbelievers. He died professing the same faith.

Many of the rioters were apprehended, and having been recognised were convicted, and suffered death in most instances opposite to the places in which the scenes were enacted in which they were proved to have taken a part. Among them were many women and boys, but there was not one individual of respectability or character. They were of the lowest class, whose only object was plunder.

Among the rioters, to sum up the account of their infamy and wretchedness, was Jack Ketch himself. This miscreant, whose real name was Edward Dennis, was convicted of pulling down the house of Mr Boggis, of New Turnstile.

The keeper of Tothill Fields Bridewell would not suffer Jack Ketch to go among the other prisoners, lest they should tear him to pieces. In order that he might hang up his brother rioters, he was granted a pardon.

JOHN DONELLAN, Esq.

Executed for the Murder of Sir Theodosius Boughton, Bart., his Brother-in-Law, 2nd of April, 1781

JOHN DONELLAN had been a captain in the army, and was the son of Colonel Donellan. He certainly distinguished himself as a good soldier, for not only had he been much wounded in the service, but, if his own account may be credited, he was singularly instrumental in the taking of Mazulapatam. Being appointed, however, one of the four agents for prize-money, he condescended to receive presents from some black merchants, to whom part of their effects had been ordered to be restored, for which he was tried by a court martial, and cashiered. He subsequently purchased a share in the Pantheon, where he figured for some time as master of ceremonies. After a variety of applications he at length obtained a certificate from the War Office that he had behaved in the East Indies "like a gallant officer"; in consequence of which he was put upon half-pay in the 39th Regiment. In June, 1777, he married Miss Boughton; and on Friday, 30th of March, 1781, he was tried at the assizes at Warwick for the wilful murder of Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley Boughton, Bart., his brother-in-law.

Mr Powell, apothecary of Rugby, deposed that on Wednesday morning, the 27th of February, he was sent for to Lawton Hall, and on his arrival there, at a little before nine o'clock, Captain Donellan conducted him to the apartment of Sir Theodosius. On entering, he perceived that the baronet was dead; and on examining the body he concluded that it was about an hour since life had fled. He had some conversation with Captain Donellan with regard

to the deceased, and he was told by him that he had "died in convulsions."

Lady Boughton, the mother of the deceased, deposed that Sir Theodosius was twenty years old on the 3rd of August past. On his coming of age he would have been entitled to above two thousand pounds a year, and in the event of his dying a minor the greater part of his fortune was to descend to his sister, the wife of Mr Donellan. It was known in the family on the evening of Tuesday, the 26th, that Sir Theodosius was to take his physic the next morning. He used to put his physic in the dressing-room. He happened once to omit to take it; upon which Mr Donellan said: "Why don't you set it in your outer room?—then you would not so soon forget it." After this he several times put the medicines upon his shelf over the chimney-piece in his outer room. On the evening of Tuesday, the 26th, about six o'clock, Sir Theodosius went out fishing attended only by one servant, Samuel Frost. Witness and Mrs Donellan took a walk in the garden, and were there over an hour. To the best of her recollection she had seen nothing of Mr Donellan after dinner till about seven o'clock, when he came out of the house door in the garden, and told them that he had been to see them fishing, and that he would have persuaded Sir Theodosius to come in, lest he should take cold, but he could not. Sir Theodosius came home a little after nine, apparently very well; he went up into his own room soon after, and then to bed. He requested her to call him the next morning and give him his physic.

She accordingly went into his room about seven in the morning, when he appeared to be very well. She asked him where the bottle was, and he said: "It stands there upon the shelf." He desired her to read the label, which she accordingly did, and found there was written upon it: "Purging draught for Sir Theodosius Boughton." As he was taking it he observed that it smelled and tasted very nauseous; upon which she said: "I think it smells very strongly like bitter almonds." He then remarked that he

thought he should not be able to keep the medicine upon his stomach.

Here a bottle was delivered to Lady Boughton containing the genuine draught, which she was desired to smell, and inform the Court whether it smelled like the medicine Sir Theodosius took. She answered in the negative. She was then desired to smell another containing the draught, with the addition of laurel-water, which she said had a smell very much like that of the medicine she gave to Sir Theodosius. Lady Boughton then proceeded with her evidence. Two minutes after Sir Theodosius had taken the draught he struggled very much. It appeared to her as if it was to keep the draught down. He made a prodigious rattling in his stomach, and guggling; and these symptoms continued about ten minutes. He then seemed as if he were going to sleep, or inclined to doze; and, perceiving him a little composed, she went out of the room. She returned in about five minutes, and to her great surprise found him with his eyes fixed upwards, his teeth clenched, and foam running out of his mouth. She instantly desired a servant to take the first horse he could get and go for Mr Powell.

She saw Mr Donellan less than five minutes after. He came into the room where Sir Theodosius lay, and said to her: "What do you want?" She answered that she wanted to inform him what a terrible thing had happened; that it was an unaccountable thing in the doctor to send such medicine, for if it had been taken by a dog it would have killed it; and she did not think her son would live. He inquired in what way Sir Theodosius then was. When told, he asked her where the physic bottle was; on which she showed him two draughts; when he took up one of the bottles and said, "Is this it?" she answered, "Yes." He then rinsed it, and emptied it into some dirty water that was in a washhand-basin; and on his doing so she asid: "What are you at? You should not meddle with the bottles." Upon that he snatched up the other bottle and rinsed it, and then he put his finger to it and tasted it. She repeated that he ought not to meddle with the bottles;

upon which he replied that he did it to taste it. Two servants, named Sarah Blundell and Catherine Amos, afterwards came into the room, and he desired the former to take away the basin and the bottles, and he put the bottles into her hands. The witness, however, took the bottles from her and set them down, bidding her not to touch them; and the prisoner then desired that the room might be cleaned, and the dirty clothes thrown into the inner room. This being done, the witness turned her back for a moment, on which the prisoner again handed the servant the bottles, and bade her take them away, and she accordingly removed them.

Witness soon afterwards went into the parlour, where she found Mr and Mrs Donellan; and the former told his wife that her mother had been pleased to take notice of his washing the bottles, and that he did not know what he should have done if he had not thought of saying that he had put the water into them to put his finger to it to taste.

Dr Rattray, of Coventry, described the external appearances of the body, and its appearances in the dissecting. He was asked whether, as he had heard the evidence of Mr Powell and Lady Boughton, he could, from that evidence, totally independent of the appearances he had described, form a judgment as to the cause of the death of Sir Theodosius. He answered that, exclusive of these appearances, he was of opinion, from the symptoms that followed the taking of the draught, that it was poison, and the certain cause of his death. Being desired to smell the bottle, and asked what was the noxious medicine in it, he said it was a distillation of laurel leaves, called laurel-water. Here he entered into a detail of several experiments on animals, tending to show the instantaneous and mortal effects of the laurel-water. He knew nothing in medicine that corresponded in smell with that mixture, which was like that of bitter almonds. He further said that the quantity of laurel-water contained in the bottle shown to him was sufficient to cause the death of any human creature; and that the appearance of the body confirmed him in his opinion that the

deceased was poisoned, so far as, upon viewing a body so long after the death of the subject, one could be allowed to form a judgment upon such appearances.

Mr Wilmer and Dr Parsons, professor of anatomy at Oxford, confirmed the evidence of Dr Rattray.

John Darbyshire deposed that he had been a prisoner in Warwick Jail for debt, and that Mr Donellan and he had had a bed in the same room for a month or five weeks. He remembered to have had a conversation with him about Sir Theodosius being poisoned. On his asking him whether the body was poisoned or not, he said there was no doubt of it. The witness said: "For God's sake, Captain, who could do it?" He answered it was amongst themselves; he had no hand in it. The witness asked whom he meant by themselves. He said: "Sir Theodosius himself, Lady Boughton, the footman and the apothecary." The witness replied, "Sure, Sir Theodosius could not do it himself!" He said he did not think he did—he could not believe he would. The witness answered: "The apothecary could hardly do it—he would lose a good patient; the footman could have no interest in it; and it is unnatural to suppose that Lady Boughton would do it." The Captain said how covetous Lady Boughton was: she had received an anonymous letter the day after Sir Theodosius's death charging her plump with poisoning him; that she called him and read it to him, and trembled. She desired he would not let his wife know of that letter, and asked him if he would give up his right to the personal estate, and to some estates of about two hundred pounds a year belonging to the family. The conversation was about a month after the Captain came into the jail. At other times he said that it was impossible he could do a thing that never was in his power.

This being the chief evidence, the prisoner, in his defence, pleaded a total ignorance of the fact, and several respectable characters bore testimony to his integrity. The jury, however, found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

At seven o'clock on the next day, the 2nd of April, 1781,

he was carried to the place of execution at Warwick, in a mourning-coach, followed by a hearse and the sheriff officers in deep mourning. As he went on he frequently put his head out of the coach, desiring the prayers of the people around him.

On his arrival at the fatal spot he alighted from the coach and, ascending a few steps of the ladder, prayed for a considerable time, and then joined in the usual service with the greatest appearance of devotion; he next, in an audible tone of voice, addressed the spectators to this effect: that as he was then going to appear before God, to Whom all deceit was known, he solemnly declared that he was innocent of the crime for which he was to suffer; that he had drawn up a vindication of himself, which he hoped the world would believe, for it was of more consequence to him to speak truth than falsehood, and he had no doubt but that time would reveal the many mysteries that had arisen in his trial.

After praying fervently some time he let his handkerchief fall—a signal agreed upon between him and the executioner—and was launched into eternity. When the body had hung the usual time it was put into a black coffin and conveyed to the town hall to be dissected.

FRANCIS HENRY DE LA MOTTE

A French Spy, who was executed at Tyburn, 27th of July, 1781, for High Treason

THIS man lived a long time in England unsuspected as one of its greatest enemies. He was a Frenchman, and a spy upon the Government, in the service of France. He gave advice to the enemy, through the medium of one Lutterlok, of the strength and destination of our fleets and armies.

Among other acts of mischief done by means of this man was the attack upon the British fleet, under Commodore Johnstone, in the neutral harbour, called Port Praya Road,

on its voyage to the East Indies, where it was convoying a fleet of East Indiamen.

La Motte sent intimation to the French Minister of the British commodore's strength and time of sailing, and the Minister sent a superior fleet in quest of him, under the command of Commodore Suffrien. So great was the surprise of the British that they were lying in harbour, taking in water and provisions, when the enemy hove in sight.

"I was then absent," says Commodore Johnstone, in his dispatches to Government, "in a boat, giving directions for moving some ships which had driven too near each other. As soon as I saw the signal for so many strange ships I instantly returned on board the *Romney*" (the Commodore's broad pendant flying on board that ship), "and made the signal for all persons to come from the shore and repair on board their respective ships, having at that time not less than one thousand, five hundred persons absent from the fleet who were employed in watering, fishing, and embarking live cattle, with other occupations necessary to dispatch in refitting so many ships, besides a number of officers and troops who were taking recreation, with leave of absence, on shore."

The French, apprised of the exact strength of the British, pressed into their very centre in line of battle—a mode of attack they durst not otherwise have done. Though thus surprised, the British beat them off.

The returns of our killed and wounded were as follows :—

Petty officers and seamen killed . . .	20
Marines and infantry killed . . .	20
Officers killed	7
Seamen wounded	77
Marines and infantry wounded . . .	63
Prisoners, among whom was Captain Darby, of the *Infernal* fireship	20
Total of killed, wounded and missing .	207

Other squadrons were attacked through the same means,

and many more lives were lost, and the nation put to an enormous expense.

This spy had elegant lodgings in Bond Street, dressed like a gentleman, kept the best company, and passed as a foreigner of fortune; he spoke the English tongue, and was well acquainted with the geography of the country. At length suspicion arose that he was a French spy. A watch was accordingly set upon his actions, and he was soon apprehended, and committed prisoner to the Tower.

On his trial various acts of treason were fully proved against him, and the jury immediately found him guilty.

The judge then passed upon him the following awful sentence:—

"That he should be hanged by the neck, but not till he was dead, then to be cut down, and his bowels to be taken out and burned before his face; his head to be taken off, his body cut into four quarters and to be at his Majesty's disposal."

He was remanded to the Tower, and at the expiration of a fortnight a warrant was issued from the office of the Secretary of State for his execution. The sheriffs demanded his body of the Lieutenant of the Tower, and carried him to Newgate; from thence, in about a quarter of an hour, they set out with him to the place of execution. La Motte was dressed in a suit of black. His deportment was manly and serious; he seemed to be totally abstracted from the surrounding multitude, as he scarcely ever took his eyes from a devotional book which he held in his hand.

Upon his arrival at the fatal tree he was immediately removed out of the sledge in which he had been conveyed. He then employed some minutes in earnest devotion; which done, he twice bowed respectfully to the sheriffs and turned to the executioner, desiring him immediately to perform his office.

After hanging fifty-seven minutes the body was cut down and laid on a block, when (a fire having been previously kindled) the executioner severed the head from the trunk, made an incision from the breast, and ripped out

the heart, which, after being exposed to the spectators, was thrown into the flames.

The body was then scorched, together with the head, and put into a very handsome coffin, which was delivered to an undertaker for interment.

WILLIAM WYNNE RYLAND

Engraver to his Majesty. Executed at Tyburn, in August, 1783, for forging a Bill of Exchange

WILLIAM WYNNE RYLAND was an engraver of great ability, and received a pension from both the King and Queen, who held him in high estimation as an artist. Fortune had smiled upon Mr Ryland, even from his birth, until his evil genius prompted him, for gold, to debase his talents in engraving for the purpose of committing forgery.

He was a native of Wales. His father had been patronised by the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, who jocosely said that if ever Mr Ryland should marry he would be the godfather of his first son. This soon after happened, and the unfortunate subject of this history, being the first-born of such marriage, was named William Wynne, by desire of the worthy baronet.

Ryland gave early proof of his genius, for while in the former part of his apprenticeship he engraved a head of his godfather, Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, which was esteemed a production of singular merit for so young an artist.

Having faithfully served his time, he visited the French and Italian schools, and obtained the honorary medal in Paris. On his return to England he introduced the admired art of engraving copper-plates to yield an impression resembling drawing in chalk; and soon after his Majesty ascended the throne he appointed Mr Ryland his engraver, with a salary of two hundred pounds a year, and the Queen added one hundred pounds a year more, out of her privy purse, as a testimony of her approbation of his extraordinary talents.

Mr Ryland entered into partnership with a Mr Bryer, and they jointly opened a shop in Cornhill, where they carried on a very extensive trade in prints, the former still continuing to exercise his abilities in the art of engraving. Though their business was productive of great profit, several capital losses occurred almost at the same time, and their pecuniary affairs became so deranged that a bankruptcy ensued.

Some years after this failure Mr Ryland, on his own separate account, opened a print-shop in the Strand, where he had every prospect of success; but being fond of a private life, where he might have leisure to "pursue coy Science in her last retreat," he declined public business and retired to Pimlico, thence to Knightsbridge, where, by one fatal act, he entirely ruined his reputation as a man: but his name as an artist will ever stand in the highest estimation.

At this time Mr Ryland had recovered his losses in trade, and had been bequeathed shares in the Liverpool Waterworks which were then deemed to be worth ten thousand pounds. His business was worth two thousand pounds a year, and his stock was valued at ten thousand pounds more. Such was his own statement of his property in his defence on his trial; and it was supposed that, in order to engross the remaining shares in his Liverpool concern, he committed the forgery for which he suffered.

He had already obtained several sums on forgeries, Mr Nightingale, the banker, having advanced him, on the 19th of September, 1782, three thousand pounds; and such was his opinion of Mr Ryland that he declared he would have lent him that sum without any deposit whatever.

The forged instruments so exactly resembled the real bills that it was scarcely possible to know one from the other. But at length it was discovered that two bills of the same tenor and date were out, consequently one of them must be a forgery.

Suspicion now fell so strongly on Ryland that he was induced to secret himself; and a reward was offered for his apprehension. He went in disguise to Stepney, and there

took an obscure lodging at the hovel of one Richard Freeman, a cobbler, accompanied by Mrs Ryland, the wretched partner of his misfortune, passing as Mr and Mrs Jackson.

There he some time evaded the search after him, till one fatal step of the unfortunate woman, who was watching over his safety, caused his apprehension. She brought, unconscious of danger, one of her husband's shoes to the cobbler to be mended, with the name of "Ryland" on the inside of it. This was fatal: the cobbler, in order to obtain the reward, delivered up his lodger.

When the officers of justice went to apprehend Ryland they found him in a corner of the room on his knees, and heard a noise like a guggling in his throat, which was occasioned by his having cut it. He had a razor in his hand, and a basin stood before him; but the wound did not prove mortal.

On the 26th of July, 1783, he was arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey, on an indictment charging him with "forging, and uttering, knowing it to be forged, a certain bill of exchange for two hundred and ten pounds sterling, purporting it to be a bill drawn by the gentlemen of the factory, at Fort Saint George, in Madras, on the Honourable East India Company, with intent to defraud the said Company, and divers other persons, to whom he had passed the said bill."

He was found guilty, and, his crime admitting of no mercy, was executed at Tyburn in August, 1783.

RICHARD CARPENTER

Convicted at the Lent Assizes, 1785, Hampshire, of forging Seamen's Wills and executed at Winchester

THIS man had been for long a public character on the dramatic boards, and he made his final exit on a stage erected for the purpose—under the gallows.

He was for many years the clown in the pantomime entertainments at Drury Lane. Unlike the major part of

his brethren of the sock and buskin, Carpenter saved some part of his salary, with which he went to Portsmouth, took an elegant house, and commenced as navy agent; in which lucrative business he acquired considerable property. It however appears that, like many who, from hard earnings, suddenly come into easy receipts, Carpenter grew so impatient to become rich that he committed felony of the basest nature—that of forging seamen's wills and powers.

This infamous robbery of poor widows and orphans he had for some time carried on with impunity, when the officers of justice went in pursuit of him. He was surprised in his own house, which was spacious, and elegantly furnished, and at the very moment when he was entertaining some friends.

His execution attracted a vast number of spectators, by whom, from his penitence and resignation to his unhappy fate, he was generally much pitied.

CHARLES PRICE

A Notorious Swindler and Bank-Note Forger, who committed Suicide in 1786

THIS extraordinary impostor, whose artifices enabled him to commit unprecedented depredations on the public, was born about the year 1730, in London. His father lived in Monmouth Street, and carried on the trade of a salesman in old clothes. Tired of the tricks and knaveries of his son Charles, the father placed him with a hosier in St James's Street. There he continued for a short time. He robbed his father of an elegant suit of clothes, in which he dressed himself, went to his master in this disguise, purchased about ten pounds' worth of silk stockings, left his address, "Benjamin Bolingbroke, Esq., Hanover Square," and ordered them to be sent to him in an hour's time, when he would pay the person who brought them. His master did not know him; so, to complete the cheat, our hero came back in half-an-hour in his usual dress, and was ordered to take the goods home, which he actually pretended to do. Thus

were both master and father robbed. He was, however, soon after found out, and discharged.

As his wits were never long unemployed for some deceptive ends, he issued the following curious advertisement in the year 1775 :—

WANTED

" A partner of character, probity, and extensive acquaintance; upon a plan permanent and productive, fifty per cent., without risk, may be obtained. It is not necessary he should have any knowledge of the business, which the advertiser possesses in its fullest extent; but he must possess a capital of between five hundred and a thousand pounds, to purchase materials, with which, to the knowledge of the advertiser, a large fortune must be made in a very short time.

" Address to P. C., Cardigan Head, Charing Cross.

" *P.S.*—None but principals, and those of liberal ideas, will be treated with."

To this advertisement the famous comedian, Samuel Foote, paid attention. Eager to seize what he thought a golden opportunity, he advanced the sum of five hundred pounds for a brewery. The sum soon disappeared, and Foote was wrung with the anguish of disappointment. Price, however, had the impudence to apply to him again, wishing him to unite in the baking trade; the comedian archly replied: " As you have brewed, so you may bake; but I'll be cursed if ever you bake as you have brewed ! "

After this unfortunate business Mr Price turned Methodist preacher, and in this character he defrauded several persons of large sums of money. Advertising in order to get gentlemen wives, he swindled a person of the name of Wigmore of fifty guineas, for which he was indicted; but, having refunded a part, he effected his escape. These and other fraudulent practices were long the objects of his ambition, though they were all the certain roads to infamy.

We now arrive at that period of his life when he commenced his ravages upon the Bank of England, which ended

in his destruction. In the year 1780 (under the assumed name of Brank) Mr Price engaged a servant, a plain, simple, honest fellow, by means of whom he passed his notes without detection. The young fellow observed an advertisement respecting a situation which seemed likely to suit him, so he answered it, but heard nothing of the advertiser for a whole week. One evening, however, just as it was dusk, a coachman inquired for the man who had answered the advertisement, saying there was a gentleman over the way, in a coach, who wanted to speak with him. On this the young fellow was called, and went to the coach, where he was desired to step in. There he saw an apparently old man, affecting the foreigner, seemingly very gouty, wrapped up with five or six yards of flannel about his legs, a camlet surtout buttoned over his chin, close to his mouth, a large patch over his left eye, and every part of his face so hidden that the young fellow could not see any part of it except his nose, his right eye and a small part of that cheek. To carry on the deception still better, Mr Price thought proper to place the man on his left side, on which the patch was, so that he could look askance at the young man with his right eye, and by that means discover only a small portion of his face. He appeared by his disguise to be between sixty and seventy years of age; and afterwards, when the man saw him standing, not much under six feet in height, owing to shoes or boots with heels very little less than three inches high. Added to this deception, he was so buttoned up and straitened that he appeared perfectly lank. He was in reality about five feet, six inches high, a compact, neat man, square-shouldered, inclined to corpulency. His legs were firm and well set; but by nature his features made him look much older than he really was, which, at that time, was nearly fifty. His nose was aquiline, and his eyes small and grey; his mouth stood very much inwards, with very thin lips; his chin pointed and prominent, with a pale complexion. But what contributed as much as anything to favour his disguise of speech was his loss of teeth. He walked exceedingly upright, was very active and quick in

his walk, and was something above what we describe a man to be when we call him a dapper-made man.

This simple and honest fellow Samuel, whom Mr Price had engaged, was employed by him to negotiate his forged bills, principally in the purchase of lottery tickets, at the same time never fully disclosing to him his name, person or history. Indeed the plan was devised and executed with uncommon ability. However, Samuel was at last detected, having passed bills to the amount of fourteen hundred pounds. But his principal eluded discovery, and retired with his booty into the deepest shades of obscurity. The poor servant was imprisoned for nearly a twelvemonth, terrified out of his wits at being the innocent instrument of such complicated villainy.

Mr Price, having most probably exhausted his former acquisitions, sallied forth in the year 1782, after new game, with the most unparalleled audacity. For this purpose he obtained his second servant from a registry office, a smart active boy of the name of Power: his father was a Scots Presbyterian, and to ingratiate himself with him Mr Price made great pretensions to religion, expressing a hope that his son was well acquainted with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. Our hero began his ravages upon a Mr Spilsbury, of Soho Square, ordering great quantities of his drops. Wilmot was his assumed name, and he introduced himself to Spilsbury as possessing all the symptoms of age and infirmity. He was wrapped up in a large camlet great-coat; he had a slouch hat on, the brim of which was large, and bent downwards on each side of his head; a piece of red flannel covered his chin and came up on each side of his face, almost as high as the cheek-bones; he had a large bush wig on, and his legs were wrapped over with flannel. He had also a pair of green spectacles on his nose, with a green silk shade hanging down from his hat, but no patch on his eye. It is remarkable that Mr Spilsbury knew Mr Price but not Mr Wilmot; nay, so complete was the deception that, sitting together in a coffee-house, Mr Spilsbury complained to his coffee-house acquaintance of the notes which Wilmot

had imposed upon him. Price kept crying out now and then, "Lackaday! Good God! Who could suppose such knavery to exist! What, and did the bank refuse payment, sir?" staring through his spectacles with as much seeming surprise as an honest man would have done.

Price had often been at the shop of a grocer, Mr Roberts, in Oxford Street. Here he now and then bought a few articles, and took many opportunities of showing his importance. One day he called there in a hackney-coach, disguised as an old man, and bought a few things. A day or two afterwards he repeated his visit; and on a third day, when he knew Mr Roberts was from home, he went again, with his face so painted that he seemed diseased with the yellow jaundice. The shopman, to whom he enumerated his complaints, gave him a prescription for that disorder, one that had cured his father of it. Price gladly accepted the recipe, promising that if it succeeded he would very liberally reward him for his civility. In a few days he called again, when he appeared perfectly free from the complaint, and acknowledged his great obligation to the shopman, to whom, after he had expatiated on his affluent circumstances, the short time he had to live in the world, and the few relations he had to leave anything to, he made a present of a ten-pound bank-note. The reader need not be told it was a counterfeit one. At the same time he said that he wanted cash for another, which was a fifty-pound note, and the obliging shopman got change for it from an opposite neighbour. The next day, in Mr Roberts's absence, he called again, and entreated the lad to get other five fifty-pound notes changed for small ones; and when he told him his master was not in the way Price begged he would take them to his master's banker, and there get them changed. This request the servant complied with. The bankers, Harley, Burchall & Co., complied with Mr Roberts's supposed request, and changed them without suspicion, and small notes were that day given for them to Mr Price.

Upon a great many other individuals he practised frauds equally ingenious and successful. In his last attempt on the

bank, which ended in his detection, he assumed the name of Palton, pretended he was an Irish linen-factor, and employed two young men to circulate his notes, whilst he, greatly disguised, kept back in obscurity. By means of a pawnbroker he was found out, with great difficulty. On his seizure he solemnly declared his innocence, and before the magistrate behaved with insolence. This detection took place on the 14th of January, 1786. He was soon sworn to by more persons than one, and seeing no way of escape he pretended, to his wife in particular, great penitence; but there was no ground for its reality. The bank fully intended to prosecute him, and there was no doubt of his dying by the hands of the executioner. He was found, however, one evening hanging against the post of the door of his apartments, in Tothill Fields Bridewell.

The depredations of this villain amounted in the whole to upwards of one hundred thousand pounds; and yet, after his apprehension, he wrote a letter to a gentleman whom he had defrauded of more than two thousand pounds, recommending his wife and eight children to his protection.

MICHAEL WALKER, RICHARD PAYNE AND ROBERT COX

Executed opposite Smart's Buildings, Holborn, London, 18th of December, 1786, for Murder

MICHAEL WALKER, Richard Payne and Robert Cox were members of a young but desperate gang of street-robbers. Cox was not quite fifteen years of age when he suffered.

On the 17th of November, 1786, Mr Robinson was walking with his friend, Mr Hunt, a painter, through Smart's Buildings, Holborn, when the latter, feeling something at his pocket, seized a man's hand. Yet the villain was dexterous enough to convey what he had stolen to an accomplice, whom Mr Hunt instantly collared, and a general scuffle ensued. There were more of the gang than those above

named opposed to Mr Robinson and Mr Hunt, who maintained the unequal combat until other people came up, when the thieves ran off.

Mr Robinson was dreadfully wounded. He was cut across the eyes and nose with a knife, and had several desperate stabs in the body, and was otherwise much maimed. While he endured these wounds the villains called to each other, "Damn the rascal, cut his heart out!" and they were so intent upon this that one of the buttons on his breast was cut through, and his coat ripped more than eighteen inches in length. Mr Hunt was also wounded, though not in a degree to cause danger to his life; but Mr Robinson was carried home in a mangled condition, with little hope of his recovery.

In a short time the malefactors above named were apprehended, and sworn to by both the sufferers. Mr Robinson soon after died of his wounds. They were convicted and, unpitied, suffered the sentence of the law. For this purpose a temporary gibbet was erected opposite Smart's Buildings.

Walker was greatly affected at his fate, and held a book in his hand. Payne appeared in a state of stupidity. Cox, the boy, cried bitterly; and when he came within sight of the gallows he screamed, and was in a state of distraction when turned off.

JOHN ELLIOT, M.D.

Acquitted of a Serious Crime, he killed himself by Hunger-Striking because of a Vindictive Sentence for a Minor Offence

DR ELLIOT was tried upon an indictment under the Black Act, with wilfully and maliciously discharging two pistols, loaded with powder and divers balls, at the person of Miss Mary Boydell. The second count charged him with firing one pistol, loaded with powder and one or more bullets, at the said Miss Boydell.

The evidence produced for the prosecution was as follows.

Mr George Nicol, bookseller to his Majesty, swore that, when walking up Prince's Street in company with Miss Boydell, he heard the loud explosion of a pistol close to his ear. It was so near, and the concussion of the air so strong, that it struck his ear like a blow. He turned round and, seeing the prisoner quite close to him with a pistol in his hand, which afterwards, however, turned out to be two pistols strongly tied together, seized him by the throat and said: "Are you the villain that fired?" The man said he was, and a footman who came up at the same moment either wrenched the pistols out of his hand or took them up as he dropped them. Then, having seen the lady taken into a shop, Mr Nicol went with the prisoner to Justice Hyde's. In going there the prisoner expressed great joy at what he had done, and, in particular, said that now he should die in peace, as he had sent the lady before him. Two more pistols were found in his pocket, apparently loaded to the muzzle, and those Mr Nicol delivered into the hands of Justice Hyde, and had not seen since. During the examination a lady came into the office and said she was happy to find that Miss Boydell was not dangerously wounded; upon which the prisoner, clashing his hands together, seemingly in an agony of disappointment, exclaimed, "Is she not dead?" and from this time, and during the continuance of the examination, he burst into a torrent of abuse against the lady, the alderman and his family.

These facts were clearly and circumstantially corroborated by the evidence of the livery-servant, and of Mr Griffith, a shoemaker in Prince's Street, who saw him fire the pistol, and who assisted in securing him.

Mr Nicol then swore that almost one half of the lady's cloak was burned, and that there were two marks on her gown, just below the shoulders, which seemed to correspond with the marks of the pistols as they were tied together.

A surgeon swore that Miss Boydell had two contusions just below the shoulder-blades which corresponded with the

marks on the gown, and which evidently proceeded from blows received from some hard substance. Being asked if pistols loaded with bullets discharged so near the body could have made such marks he said he did not know; but it was certain that a pistol put quite close home to any resisting body, and discharged so as not to have the assistance of the air, lost much of its force.

Mr Silvester, on the part of the prisoner, called a Dr Symmonds to prove that he was insane. The doctor gave it as his opinion that he was so, and he had formed this opinion from a letter he had received from him in January, the purport of which was a philosophical hypothesis that the sun was not specifically a ball of fire, but that his heat proceeded from the quality of the atmosphere that surrounded his body. Some part of this paper was read, and, so far from betraying symptoms of insanity, it had all the marks of quick and cultivated parts. The hypothesis, however false, was ably argued; and as to the absurdity of the doctrine itself, the recorder aptly asked the doctor whether, if he judged of his intellect merely from a vague supposition as to the nature of the sun's heat, he might not equally declare Buffon and many other philosophers to be mad.

Mr O'Donnell, the successor of Mr Elliot, said he had observed symptoms of insanity in him, although he attended his patients very regularly and very properly. This inconsistency drew from Mr Garrow some sharp questions, which Mr O'Donnell said did not, by the way in which they were put, enable him to give so clear an account of the case as he otherwise would do if not puzzled by the counsel.

Two people with whom he lodged also said they remarked insanity; but he was a good, quiet lodger, and they saw no harm in him.

The recorder said it was necessary that the jury should be convinced that one or both pistols was loaded with ball. It was evident, first from the exultation, and afterwards the disappointment, expressed by Elliot, as well as by his declarations, that his intention was to take away the life of the lady—that he had deliberated on the fact, and had coolly

prepared the means. But it was for them to inquire whether, in the anxiety incident to so horrid a project, he had not either blundered in the loading, or had chosen the wrong pair of pistols; for if they were not convinced that one or both of them was loaded with ball they must acquit the prisoner. Here one of the jurymen said: "Surely, my Lord, nothing can be more clear than that the pistols were not loaded with ball." On this the recorder said that if they were all of this opinion it was needless for him to enumerate the evidence in defence of the prisoner.

The jury, after some consultation, brought in a verdict of guilty of shooting, but they did not find that there was ball. On this the recorder directed them to acquit the prisoner, which they did.

The recorder said this was no ground for exultation to the prisoner. His crime in the eye of Heaven was the same, and he should order him to be detained to be tried for the assault; and it was a duty which the prosecutors owed to society to bring him to his trial in that way.

This officiousness of justice proved fatal to poor Elliot. He was a man of extreme sensibility, and being convicted of the assault, and a vindictive sentence passed, he adopted a determination to starve himself to death; and, in spite of entreaty and force, persisted in not swallowing any sustenance, till he died a victim of the misplaced punctilio of law.

HENRY STERNE

Commonly called "Gentleman Harry." Convicted of stealing the Duke of Beaufort's Pendant, 1787

THIS man was styled "A Gentleman Thief." He dressed well, and being of an easy address, and tolerably educated, got admission to the best company, where he could advantageously levy his contributions.

On the King's birthday, in the year 1787, Sterne took up his post at St James's Palace, where numbers resorted to see the Court dresses and the fashions.

On such occasions courtiers pay their addresses to their sovereign in their different orders. The Duke of Beaufort, as a Knight of the Garter, among the other companions of that most dignified order, had his George pendent from its ribbon. It was set with diamonds, and was worth a considerable sum of money. This George was taken from him by Gentleman Harry, for which offence he was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, on the 12th of September, 1787.

The Duke thereon deposed that on the 4th of June, on returning from the levee at St James's, he found himself surrounded by a vast number of persons, the meaning of which did not immediately occur to his mind, but on putting down his hand to feel for his George he missed it. Calling out very loudly to his servants, they came up. He was asked to point out the thief, but his confusion was so great that he could only point to a man dressed in black, who stood near him. In a short time the Duke saw one of his servants seize a gentlemanly-looking person, whom he had not before observed, and on whom the George was found.

The Duke then produced the precious article to the Court, which, he said, had not been out of his possession since it was taken out of the prisoner's pocket.

On his cross-examination by the prisoner's counsel, when asked if he was sure that the prisoner at the bar was the man who stole the George, the Duke replied his suspicions chiefly rested on the *man in black*.

Thomas West, servant to the Duke, swore that he seized and searched the *man in black*, and found nothing; but on seizing the prisoner, and putting his hand in his pocket, he pulled out the George. He admitted that he did not see the George taken from his Grace, but he swore positively to taking it out of the prisoner's pocket.

Shepley, the gate-keeper at Cleveland Row, corroborated the evidence of West, having seen the whole transaction; and this closed the case on the part of the prosecution.

In his defence the prisoner made a short but neat speech to the Court, wherein he principally rested upon the hope that the passions of the jury would not be prejudiced on

account of the many slanders against him in the newspapers. He called no witnesses.

The judge, in giving his charge to the jury, so far agreed with the observations of the prisoner as to hope that their minds were entirely unprejudiced. He observed that there were two separate crimes charged in the indictment:

First.—That the prisoner committed a robbery on the person of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, on the highway.

Second.—For privately stealing from his person.

It was, continued the judge, for the jury to say whether it came out in proof that it was the prisoner's hand that stole the George. If not, they must acquit him of privately stealing, which would, of course, clear him of the capital charge.

The jury withdrew, and after a consultation of fifteen minutes brought in their verdict of *guilty of stealing*, but *not privately*.

He was sentenced to be transported to Botany Bay for seven years.

THOMAS DENTON

His Misapplied Talents led to his Downfall, and he was executed before Newgate, 1st of July, 1789, for making Base Coin

THOMAS DENTON was born in the north part of Yorkshire. He was bound apprentice to a tinman, and served his time with much credit to himself and profit to his master. His genius, it appears, expanded beyond the making of kettles, for he evinced a taste for literature. He opened a bookseller's shop in the city of York, where he particularly attended to works on mechanism; and, with a superficial store of such arts, he gave up his few shelves of books and, on their sale, went as an adventurer to the great mart of genius, London.

He had formed no settled plan of life, but determined to employ some days in viewing minutely the great metropolis. Passing through the parish of St James's, his

attention was arrested by some foreigners exhibiting a speaking figure. He immediately paid his admission, and took a very correct examination of the automaton. Returning to his lodgings, he fancied that he could construct a similar machine equal to that of the ingenious foreigner, and he determined, without further delay, to set about this work.

Difficulties, however, insurmountable to a man without genius and perseverance, presented themselves. An unknown individual as he was, he had to furnish himself, in a strange place, with a workshop, tools and materials. Yet man's industry, which, he had read, had levelled mountains, diverted the course of large rivers, and carried navigation into the bowels of the earth, would hardly stop at forming the figure of a pigmy. To set to work took time, labour and money; but once seated thereat, his ingenuity soon made rapid progress, and, with but one more hired view of the original, he completed a far superior figure to that of the vaunting German.

His work having been deemed the most complete, he wisely determined against all opposition in London, where the milk of such a rareeshow had already been skimmed, and accordingly set off with it into the country. There he collected vast sums of money at each city which he pitched upon for the exhibition of his famous speaking figure.

His active mind, it seems, still was discontented. He, looking upon his first essay in mechanism as far inferior to his expanded ideas, determined upon returning to London, in order to undertake a superior work. He soon found a purchaser for the speaking figure (a printer in the City of London, who melted it down for his types) and set about a writing automaton. This, too, he finished with most exquisite and ingenious workmanship.

The artificial penman delighted him no longer than the speaker; and he next applied himself to chemistry. In pursuit of this science he met with Pinetti's book of deceptions, which he translated (having previously to learn the language in which it was written), and added to it various notes and observations.

He also made himself master of an improvement in the art of plating coach harness. Conceiving this profitable branch of business united to that of a bookseller would make his fortune, he for some time carried on both in Holborn. Here his good fortune, by his own indiscretion, failed him. The art, thus self-acquired, of plating metal, led him into company with others professing that branch of business, and among them was a coiner of base shillings.

Here, too, as with the Germans, he fancied he could far excel in this criminal proceeding; and the powers that assisted him to make several mathematical instruments, as pentagraphs, etc., enabled him to imitate the current coin of the kingdom in a manner that deceived the best judges, and which upon his trial at the Old Bailey for that offence kept the Court in doubt for seven hours. Nor could he be convicted of coining, but he was found guilty of having implements for coining in his possession, which alone proved fatal to him.

He was condemned to die; and we are reluctant in adding to the character of such a man of genius as Thomas Denton that his behaviour after condemnation was impious in the extreme. To sum up the whole, he died a professed infidel.

A few minutes before he was brought out of his cell for execution he requested pen, ink and paper; and in the most composed manner sat down and wrote the following letter:—

Dear Father and Mother,—When you receive this I shall be gone to that country from whence no traveller returns. Don't cast any reflections on my wife, the best of mothers, and the best of women; and if ever woman went to heaven, she will. If I had taken her advice I should not have been in this situation. God bless my poor Dick [his son]. The bell is tolling. Adieu!

T. Denton.

THOMAS GORDON

Executed at Northampton, 17th of August, 1789, for a Murder ordered by his Mother

MR GORDON, the father of this wretched youth, was a surgeon and apothecary in London, from whence he removed his family into Northamptonshire.

Mr Gordon continued to practise in the country, and soon became envied, and obnoxious to his neighbours, being considered as an intruder, from not being a native of the county. The consequence of this was frequent quarrels; and at length a justice's warrant was obtained against him, on a pretended charge of assault.

The constable went to Mr Gordon's house, in order to apprehend him, but the wife and the son told the officer that he was not at home. This was not the case, and the constable knew he was in the house: he, however, went away, but soon returned with some neighbours, who tried to make a forcible entry. The mother and son opposed them, and the latter was armed with a gun. The populace threw stones at the windows, when the mother, in an unlucky moment, bade her son fire; he did so, and killed the constable on the spot.

Both mother and son were tried, and found guilty of this murder; but Baron Thompson, who presided on the bench, observing that the mother was indicted as accessory before the fact, and the evidence turning out that she was a principal, had doubts whether she was properly convicted, and therefore reserved the case for the opinion of the twelve judges, who, upon solemn argument, confirmed the sentence against the son, but at the same time adjudged the indictment against the mother to be bad; and the poor youth received sentence of death. He was, however, three times reprieved; from which he hoped, and the world flattered him with an opinion, that his pardon would ultimately follow.

While cheered with this idea, an order came for his

execution. He was scarcely nineteen years of age, and died for an act which, at the time of its commission, he considered a defence of his father and an act of obedience to the orders of his mother.

THOMAS PHIPPS, Esq., and THOMAS PHIPPS, his Son

Executed for a Forgery committed by the Younger Man, who exonerated his Father, 5th of September, 1789

THESE malefactors were father and son. The father was a man of good property, and lived on his own estate at Llwyney Mapsis, in Shropshire; and he and his son were indicted for uttering a note of hand for twenty pounds, purporting to be that of Mr Richard Coleman, of Oswestry, knowing the same to have been forged.

It was proved on their trial that Mr Coleman never had had transactions with Mr Phipps which required the signing of any note whatever; that about the previous Christmas Mr Coleman was served with a copy of a writ at the suit of Mr Phipps the elder, which action Mr Coleman defended, and for want of further proceedings on the part of the plaintiff a *non pros.* was signed, with two pounds, three shillings costs of suit against Phipps. Upon this an affidavit was drawn up and sworn by Phipps the elder, Phipps the younger, and William Thomas, their clerk, for the purpose of moving the Court of Exchequer to set aside the judgment of *non pros.*, and therein they swore that the cause of action was a note of the said Coleman for twenty pounds, which was given as satisfaction for a trespass by him committed in carrying some hay off the land of one of Mr Phipps the elder's tenants.

The Court thereupon granted a rule to show cause why the judgment should not be set aside; but Mr Coleman insisted that the note was a forgery, and the present prosecution was instituted against the father, son and Thomas.

After a full hearing at the assizes at Shrewsbury the father and son were pronounced "guilty of uttering and publish-

ing the note, knowing it to be forged"; and William Thomas was found "not guilty."

Though convicted on the fullest evidence, the unhappy men, until the morning of their execution, persisted in their innocence; but when about to leave the jail young Phipps made the following confession: "It was I alone who committed the forgery: my father is entirely innocent, and was ignorant of the note being forged when he published it.

They were taken in a mourning-coach to the place of execution, accompanied by a clergyman and a friend who had attended them daily after their condemnation.

On their way to the fatal tree the father said to the son: "Tommy, thou hast brought me to this shameful end, but I freely forgive thee"; to which the son made no reply. Being remarkably wet weather, their devotions were performed chiefly in the coach. When the awful moment arrived, Mr Phipps said to his son: "You have brought me hither; do you lead the way!" Which the youth immediately did, and in the most composed manner ascended the ladder to a temporary scaffold erected for the purpose of their execution, followed by his father.

When their devotions were finished, and the halters tied to the gallows, this most wretched father and son embraced each other, and in a few moments the scaffold fell, and hand-in-hand they were launched into eternity, the 5th of September, 1789, amid a vast concourse of pitying spectators.

The father was forty-eight, and the son just twenty years of age.

SAMUEL HINCHCLIFFE

Convicted at the Westminster Sessions in January, 1790.
Imprisoned and publicly whipped for a Fraudulent Trick

AN Act of Parliament was passed, a short time subsequent to the conviction of this man, to prevent the exploiting of carriers and porters bringing packages for coach, wagon, etc., to London. The imposition had arrived at such a pitch that rascals, pretending to be porters at inns, would often

put a few stones or brickbats into hand-baskets, and other packages, and cheat the unsuspicious, to whom they had directed them, of a few shillings, as carriage and porterage. Other villains, actually porters to inns, would charge carriage though already paid in the country, as will be found in the present case.

Samuel Hinchcliffe having thus imposed upon Daniel Delaney, Esq., that gentleman commenced a prosecution against him, on which he was tried at the Westminster sessions for fraudulently obtaining from Cowley, his servant, two shillings, under pretence of its being for the carriage of a parcel from Norwich, the prisoner well knowing that the carriage had been before paid.

Cowley deposed that the prisoner brought to his master's house a parcel directed to Daniel Delaney, Esq. He told the witness he had brought it from the White Horse Inn, Fetter Lane, and demanded two shillings for the carriage, and one shilling for the porterage. The witness observed to him that the carriage ought to have been paid, and on looking at the direction he discovered that part of it had been torn off, and " Three Shillings " written over it.

This created suspicion, and he several times advised the prisoner not to take the two shillings for the carriage, as he was persuaded it had been paid. The prisoner, however, persisted in his charge, and took three shillings. The next day the witness was sent by his master to the White Horse, and found that the parcel had not been brought from that inn. He then went to the Swan, in Lad Lane, to which inn he found that the parcel had come by the Norwich coach, and that the carriage had been paid in the country.

The next witness called was a clerk at the Swan, who deposed that the prisoner was an assistant porter at that house, employed to deliver parcels. Upon examining the way-book he found the carriage of the parcel had been paid, and that the prisoner had accounted for only one shilling for the porterage.

The jury immediately found him guilty.

Mr Mainwaring, the chairman, observed that this was a case of great importance to the public, who were daily

suffering under such impositions. As it was very difficult to detect this kind of fraud, it was necessary to make an example of those offenders against whom the charge was proved. He further added that Mr Delaney, by instituting this prosecution, merited the thanks of the public. He then sentenced the prisoner to three months' imprisonment, and to be publicly whipped from the Admiralty to Charing Cross, and from thence to Bridge Street, Parliament Street; which punishment was inflicted, to the great satisfaction of the spectators.

JOHN DYER

A Westminster Schoolboy, executed at Newgate, 5th of August, 1790, for Forgery

JOHN DYER brought great trouble and disgrace on his most respectable parents and connections. He received his education at Westminster School; from thence he was placed in a merchant's counting-house, and had not seen quite nineteen years when he atoned for the crime of forgery by his life.

On the 7th of May, 1789, Dyer called at the shop of Mr Scott, wax-chandler, in New Bond Street, and ordered thirty-six pounds of candles, which he pretended were for Sir William Hamilton, and in payment tendered a bill of exchange in the following words:—

£10, 10s. No. 25.

Richmond, Surrey, 22*nd April* 1790.

Fourteen days after date, please to pay Mr William Smith, or order, ten pounds ten shillings, value received, as advised.

Charles Thomas.

To Messrs Hankeys,
Bankers, London.

Accepted for Self & Co.
Joseph Chapman Hankey.

Endorsed, William Smith.
William Miller.

Dyer received the balance, but the candles ordered to be sent, as he directed, being refused, Mr Scott instantly suspected that he had been imposed upon by a forgery. The unfortunate youth was soon found, and committed to Newgate.

When put on his trial every spectator's heart was filled with pity, and, being called on for his defence, he said that he had received the bill from Mr Kelsy, his employer, who ordered him to put the name of Mr Miller on the back; that he was ignorant of the consequence of so doing, and that he acted merely as a servant. Bringing no proof, he was found guilty; and though interest was made to save his life, he died ignominiously on the gallows, on the 5th of August, 1790.

EDWARD LOWE AND WILLIAM JOBBINS

Young Incendiaries, who set fire to a House in order to plunder it, and were executed in the City, 20th of November, 1790

THESE prisoners were indicted at the Old Bailey sessions for feloniously setting fire to the house of Francis Gilding, in Aldersgate Street, on the 16th of May, 1790.

From the evidence of the apprentice of Mr Gilding, who was an accomplice in the wicked deed, it appeared that he was acquainted with the two prisoners, who were persons of bad character; and that it was determined among them that Mr Gilding's house, which was the Red Lion Inn, should be set on fire, in order that they might plunder it. Accordingly, at about twelve o'clock on the night of Saturday, 16th of May, they met in the inn-yard, and Lowe got up into the hay-loft and, placing some combustibles there, set them alight with a pipe, which he was smoking. The fire soon blazed up, and the prisoners very actively carried off the goods, which they took away in a cart. The witness was in the act of carrying away a chest of drawers when he was stopped by Lucie, a constable, upon whose evidence

he was convicted. He subsequently, however, on condition of being pardoned, consented to give evidence against the prisoners. This testimony being confirmed by that of other witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against the prisoners, and on the 2nd of November they were brought up to receive judgment.

The learned recorder then addressed them in the following terms: "I hardly know how to find words to express the abhorrence that I feel, or that the public entertains, of the crime of which you stand convicted. The setting fire to houses in the dead of night, for the purpose of plunder, at the risk of the lives of the inhabitants of a great city, is a crime not yet to be met with upon the records of villainy that have been brought forward in this court. As the crime is singular, so the punishment must be marked. I take it that it will be so marked, and hope the example will be such that if there should be left any persons of the same wicked intentions they will take example from your fate. As your crime is singular and novel, I hope it will be the only one brought into this court of the same description. You therefore must prepare to die, and consider yourselves as men without hope in this world. And give me leave to assure you that it is my decided opinion that, for an offence so very atrocious as yours, you can never expect salvation in the world to come unless you make some reparation to your injured country, and to God, Whom you have offended, by a sincere confession of all the offences of which you have been guilty, and by a disclosure of the names of all persons who either have engaged, or are about to engage, in crimes so detestable as that of which you stand convicted. Nothing therefore remains but that I should pray to Almighty God, and it is now my earnest prayer to Him that you may all obtain forgiveness and remission of your sins."

On the morning of the 20th of November these incendiaries were brought out of Newgate and placed on a high seat, which had been fixed in the cart to render them more conspicuous to the spectators. They were then conveyed, attended by the sheriffs and other city officers, to

Aldersgate Street, where a temporary gallows was erected opposite the spot where stood the house of Mr Gilding, to which they had set fire. They arrived at the fatal tree about a quarter before nine o'clock, when Mr Villette, the ordinary, went into the cart and prayed with them for about twenty minutes, after which they were turned off. They both confessed to Mr Villette the facts for which they so justly suffered.

Jobbins had been educated at St Paul's School, was bred a surgeon, and was only nineteen years of age when he suffered. Lowe was about twenty-three years of age.

A boy named Mead was, on the 31st of August in the ensuing year, executed for a similar offence, in firing the house of his master, Mr Walter Cavardine, a publican, in Red Lion Street.

RENWICK WILLIAMS

Commonly called "The Monster." Convicted 13th of December, 1790, of a brutal and wanton Assault on Miss Ann Porter

SEVERAL months previous to the apprehension of this man a report ran through all ranks of society that young females had been secretly wounded in different parts of their bodies, in the public streets, and often in the day-time, by a monster, who, upon committing the brutal crime, effected his escape.

Sometimes, as reported, the villain presented a nosegay to a young female, wherein was concealed a sharp instrument, and, as he offered them the flowers to smell, stabbed them in the face.

Other tales were told of some who had been stabbed in the thigh and behind; in fine, there was universal terror in the female world in London.

At length a man named Renwick Williams was apprehended on the charge of one of the young ladies thus brutally wounded, and his trial came on at the Old Bailey, on the 18th of January, 1790.

The indictment charged that with force and arms, in the parish of St James's, on the king's highway, Renwick Williams did, unlawfully, wilfully and maliciously, make an assault upon, maim and wound Ann Porter, against the peace, etc. A second count charged the said Renwick Williams that, on the same day and year, he did unlawfully, wilfully and maliciously tear, spoil, cut and deface the garments and clothes—to wit, the cloak, gown, petticoat and shift—of the said Ann Porter, contrary to the statute, and against the peace, etc.

Miss Ann Porter deposed that she had been at St James's, to see the ball, on the night of the 18th of January, 1790, accompanied by her sister, Miss Sarah Porter, and another lady; that her father had appointed to meet them at twelve o'clock, the hour at which the ball generally broke up, but that it ended at eleven; and she was therefore under the necessity of either staying where she was until her father came, or returning home at that time. Her father, she said, lived in St James's Street, and he kept a tavern and a cold bath. She agreed to go home with her party.

As they proceeded up St James's Street her sister appeared much agitated, and called to her to hasten home, which she and her company accordingly did. Her sister was the first to reach the hall door. As the witness turned the corner of the rails she received a blow on the right hip: she turned round and saw the prisoner stoop down. She had seen him before several times, on each of which he had followed close behind her, and used language so gross that the Court did not press her to relate the particulars.

He did not immediately run away when he struck her, but looked in her face, and she thus had a perfect opportunity of observing him. She had no doubt, she said, of the prisoner being the man who wounded her. She supposed that the wound was inflicted with a sharp instrument, because her clothes were cut, and she was wounded through them.

Mr Justice Buller, in summing up, said that if the jury should find the prisoner guilty upon the present charge he would reserve his case for the opinion of the twelve judges

of England, for several reasons: first, because this was completely and perfectly a new case in itself; and second, because this was the first indictment of this kind that had ever been tried. Therefore, although he himself entertained but little doubt upon the first point, yet, as the case was new, it would be right to have a solemn decision upon it, so that thereafter the law, in that particular, might be declared from undoubted authority.

Upon the second point he owned that he entertained some doubts. This indictment was certainly the first of the kind that had ever been drawn up in this kingdom. It was founded upon the statute 6 George I. Upon this statute it must be proved that it was the intent of the party accused not only to wound the body, but also to cut, tear and spoil the garment. The first question, therefore, for the consideration of the jury would be, whether this was done wilfully, and with intent to spoil the garment, as well as to wound the body.

The jury immediately, without hesitation, found the prisoner guilty.

Mr Justice Buller then ordered the judgment in this case to be arrested, and the recognisances of the persons bound to prosecute to be respited until the December sessions.

The court was crowded with spectators by nine o'clock, when the trial began; it ended at five o'clock at night. All the witnesses were examined separately.

At the commencement of the sessions at the Old Bailey, on the 10th of December, Judge Ashurst addressed the prisoner nearly in the following terms: "You have been capitally convicted under the statute 6 George I. of maliciously tearing, cutting, spoiling and defacing the garments of Ann Porter, on the 18th of January last. Judgment has been arrested upon two points—one, that the indictment is informal; the other, that the Act of Parliament does not reach the crime. Upon solemn consideration the judges are of opinion that both the objections are well founded; but although you are discharged from this indictment, yet you are within the purview of the common law. You are therefore to be remanded to be tried for a misdemeanour."

He was accordingly, on the 13th of the same month, tried at Hicks's Hall for a misdemeanour, in making an assault on Miss Ann Porter.

The trial lasted sixteen hours: there were three counts in the indictment—viz. for assaulting with intent to kill, for assaulting and wounding, and for a common assault.

The facts proved were nearly the same, with very little variation indeed, as those which were given in evidence on his trial for the felony at the Old Bailey. He was found guilty, when the Court sentenced him to two years' imprisonment in Newgate on each of the three indictments, and at the expiration of the time to find security for his good behaviour, himself in two hundred pounds and two sureties in one hundred pounds each.

JOHN BELVILLE

Convicted at the Old Bailey, 16th of February, 1791, for a Robbery from "the Dwelling-House of her Majesty, called Buckingham House"

THE indictment against this singularly daring thief charged him with feloniously stealing a pair of silver snuffers, one silver snuffer-stand and two silver vessels from the dwelling-house of her Majesty, called Buckingham House, the property of his Majesty.

The wretched man did not deny the theft, but pleaded excessive poverty. He said he was a gentleman by birth, and was brought over to England by a Russian gentleman, with whom he had lived, as his valet, four years. On his master's return to Russia he was recommended by him to an English family, and afterwards served other gentlemen of property; he at length was engaged to serve Miss Burney, one of the maids-of-honour to the Queen, as her footman. He had not lived long in her service before he discovered that some secret enemy was working his ruin, and he was soon discharged, and could no longer obtain a character.

On the morning he committed the robbery he had

wandered about St James's Park without a farthing in his pocket, extremely hungry, and without the prospect of any relief; and with a view to moving the compassion of Miss Burney he had called at Buckingham House, where he had found means to take the property, for which he expressed the deepest sorrow, and entreated the jury to be merciful.

This candid defence and humble petition had its weight with the jury, who found him guilty of "stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings only," which did not affect his life.

BARTHOLOMEW QUAILN

Executed, after a great Legal Argument, on 7th of March, 1791, in the Isle of Ely, for the Murder of his Wife

IN the case of this unfortunate man the judges were called upon to decide whether he had murdered his wife by kicking her, or whether her death was occasioned only after "reasonable chastisement," which he had inflicted upon her.

Bartholomew Quailn, a poor labouring man, was tried at the assizes for the Isle of Ely for the wilful murder of his wife; but on the Court doubting whether the affair was murder or manslaughter the jury found a special verdict, which, being removed certiorari, was now argued, in the presence of the prisoner, by Mr Plumtre for the Crown, and Mr Wilson for the unhappy man at the bar.

The facts were principally these. The prisoner, with his infant child on one arm, and a coarse bag on the other, followed his wife out of a public-house in the parish of Hadgrane, in the county of Cambridge. Soon afterwards his wife was seen lying on the road, quarrelling with her husband, who stood near her, because he would not give her the bag which he held in his left hand. High words passed between them; and, upon some provoking expressions being made use of by the wife, the prisoner ran up to her and kicked her violently as she lay on the ground. She got

up and endeavoured to run away from him, but he ran after her, and on his overtaking her she again fell to the ground, when he again kicked her with great violence. She rose again, and endeavoured to make her escape, but he again followed her, and on her falling down he kicked her violently as before.

While she lay on the ground a person called to him and asked him how he could treat his wife so barbarously. To which he replied that he would serve her in the same manner. The deceased rose again from the ground, and endeavoured to get from him, but he followed her, threw her down, and gave her several violent kicks, upon which she clapped her hand to her side and exclaimed, "Oh, Bat, now you have done for me!" or "Now you have killed me," or some words to that effect; and soon after she expired.

The prisoner showed great grief and concern for her death. The jurors found that she had not given him any other provocation; that her spleen had been burst by the kicks she so received; and that the said bursting of the spleen had been the cause of her death.

Mr Plumtre, after an elegant exordium, entered into the definition of murder as laid down by Hawkins and Hale; described the two kinds of malice in fact and in law, or, as they are more generally called, malice express and malice implied; and contended that, from the circumstances of this case, the Court must imply that the prisoner was impelled by that malice which, according to the words of Mr Justice Forster, showed "his heart to be regardless of social duty, and his mind deliberately bent upon mischief."

Mr Wilson, for the prisoner, raised two objections in point of form, which, however, were overruled by the Court.

The judges gave their opinions *seriatim*, and were clear and unanimous that the facts as stated on the special verdict amounted to the crime of murder. They relied upon the doctrine laid down by Mr Justice Forster that "in every charge of murder, the fact of killing being first proved, all

the circumstances of accident, necessity or infirmity are to be satisfactorily proved by the prisoner, unless they arise out of the evidence produced against him; for the law presumes the fact to be founded on malice until the contrary appears"; that upon the present occasion there was no one fact of provocation stated on the verdict that could induce the prisoner to kick his wife in so violent a manner, for, so far from her making any resistance, it appeared she endeavoured all she could to get away from him. Chastisement, wherever that right exists, must be done in a reasonable manner; but where it is exercised in so violent a manner as in the present case it shows the heart to be regardless of social duty, and deliberately bent on mischief.

This case was like the case of the park-keeper who tied a boy to a horse's tail and then struck the boy, which occasioned the horse to run away, by which the boy was killed. Death, perhaps, was not intended in either case, but the mode of correction in both was violent; or, as the printed report of the case called it, it was a deliberate act; from which, as death ensued, it was adjudged to be murder.

There was also a case in Kelynge, pages 64 and 65, where a woman was indicted for murdering her child; and it appeared that she had kicked her on the belly, and it was adjudged murder.

The Clerk of the Crown called upon the prisoner and, after reading the proceedings, asked him what he had to say why the Court should not pronounce on him judgment to die according to law.

Mr Justice Ashurst, putting on the black coif which is worn on these occasions, pronounced sentence of death in the most solemn and affecting manner—viz. that the prisoner should be hanged by the neck, and his body delivered to the surgeons to be dissected and anatomised.

He was executed on the 7th of March, 1791.

JOSEPH WOOD AND THOMAS UNDERWOOD

Two Fourteen-year-old Boys, executed at Newgate, 6th of July, 1791, for robbing another Boy

ALL the parties in this case were mere children, the malefactors being but fourteen years of age each, and the prosecutor no more than twelve!

Though of this tender age, yet were the two prisoners convicted as old and daring depredators. So often had they already been arraigned at that bar where they were condemned that the judge declared, notwithstanding their appearance (they were short, dirty, ill-visaged boys), it was necessary, for the public safety, to cut them off, in order that other boys might learn that, inured to wickedness, their tender age would not save them from an ignominious fate.

The crime for which they suffered was committed with every circumstance of barbarity. They forcibly took away a bundle, containing a jacket, shirt and waistcoat, from a little boy, then fell upon him, and would probably have murdered him had they not been secured. They had long belonged to a most desperate gang of pickpockets and footpads; but they were so hardened and obstinate that they would not impeach their companions, though the hopes of mercy were held out to them if they would make a confession, so that the villains might have been apprehended.

They were executed at Newgate, the 6th of July, 1791, apparently insensible of their dreadful situation.

JOSEPH LORRISON

Known among Thieves as "Jumping Joe." Executed on Kennington Common, 8th of August, 1792, for Robbery on the Highway

JOSEPH LORRISON was an old offender. He was particularly dexterous in robbing wagons, which, while the driver was guiding his team, he would quickly jump into and hand out whatever packages he could lay his hands on,

and give them to his confederates, who were always in readiness to receive them.

He was tried for different species of robbery, and finally for assaulting and robbing Mr James Dixon, on the highway, of his watch and money. When apprehended he was dressed in a smock-frock, and the prosecutor could not then swear to him; but when he put on a coat which was found in his room he then swore positively that he was the man who robbed him. He was found guilty at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to death.

Before and after conviction, however, he in the most solemn manner denied his guilt.

He was born in the county of Surrey, and resided for several years in the borough of Southwark, where he was long known as a most daring and atrocious depredator on the public. He was once tried for the murder of a watchman, and though acquitted, from the evidence not being sufficient, was in general supposed to be guilty. He obtained the appellation of "Jumping Joe" from his dexterity in jumping into carts, wagons, etc., in order to rob them. He was executed on Kennington Common, on the 8th of August, 1792.

THE REV. RICHARD BURGH, JOHN CUMMINGS, Esq., Captain in the Army, TOWNLEY M'CAN, Esq., Student of Law, JAMES DAVIS and JOHN BOURNE

Convicted of a Conspiracy to set fire to the King's Bench Prison, February, 1793

ON the trial of these conspirators the Attorney-General said he flattered himself it would be found that he had done no more than his duty in bringing the several defendants before the Court. The offence with which they were charged was of the utmost importance to the peace and safety of the capital, for it not only had for its object

the demolition of the King's Bench Prison, but involved the burning of other houses, bloodshed and murder.

He lamented that five persons, all of education and respectable families, should, by their folly and imprudence, to call it by the softest name, bring themselves into such an unfortunate situation. One was a reverend divine, another an officer in the army, another had been in the profession of the law, and the others were of respectable parents, and with fair prospects of being honourable and useful members of the community.

The Attorney-General further said that this case was pregnant with the most alarming circumstances, which would be better detailed by the witnesses than described by him.

The prisoner Burgh was private chaplain to the Duke of Leinster, and a relation to the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons.

The first witness was Mr Justice Buller's clerk, who produced a record to prove that the prisoner Burgh was lawfully confined in the King's Bench Prison for debt.

Evidence was produced to prove that the other prisoners were also confined in the same prison for debt.

Edward Webb said he knew all the prisoners. About the beginning of May he was introduced into a society called "The Convivials," held in a room in the King's Bench Prison, of which the prisoners were members.

M'Can expressed himself very freely upon the subject of Lord Rawdon's Bill, then pending, respecting insolvent debtors, and said if that Bill did not pass into a law he and others were determined to do something to liberate themselves; that there was a scheme in agitation for that purpose, but that the parties were sworn to secrecy, and therefore he could not divulge it. The witness said he might safely communicate the business to him. The prisoners Cummings and Davis were present at the time.

M'Can afterwards opened the business to the witness. He said the plan in which he and the other prisoners were concerned was to effect their own enlargement by demolishing

the walls of the prison, as they were determined not to be confined within those walls for debt. The execution of this plan would, however, depend upon the rejection of Lord Rawdon's Bill. After they had effected their escape, by setting fire to the prison, they would then go to the Fleet Prison and liberate the prisoners; after which they would proceed to the houses of Lords Thurlow and Kenyon, which they would destroy.

Davis said he would not hesitate to blow out the brains of those noble Lords. The witness saw the other defendants, who conversed upon the subject, and it was proposed to procure some sailors to assist them. This scheme was, however, defeated by the vigilance of the marshal, who sent for the guards, and had the prison searched throughout.

Shortly afterwards the witness saw M'Can, Cummings and Davis again, who said that, though they were defeated in the former scheme, they were determined to put some other plot into execution. The next day Cummings (who was called the Captain) said to the witness: "I have discovered the best plan that could be conceived for blowing up these d——d walls. I'll show you the place." He then took the witness to the end of the bakehouse and pointed out to him a place where the drain had been opened. Then he described the force necessary to blow up the walls, and said he had studied the scheme upon his pillow, and that it would be necessary to have a box about ten inches wide and as many deep, and described the tubes that were to convey the fire to the box, which he said must contain about fifty pounds' weight of gunpowder, and requested the witness would get it made. In the evening of the same day the witness saw M'Can and Davis come out of the coffee-room, and, alluding to the plot, they said it was a glorious plan, and they would support it to the loss of their lives. They said no other person should be privy to it, excepting Mr Bourne, who was concerned in the former scheme, and who had got a large quantity of gunpowder ready. The witness observed to them that the neighbouring bakehouse and coffee-room would be in danger, and that

poor Martin, who had a large family, would be killed. They replied that it did not matter if they or a dozen more were killed, provided it procured the prisoners' freedom.

A day or two afterwards, when the witness was walking on the parade with Cummings, M'Can and Bourne, he asked if Mr Bourne knew of the plot; they said he did. Bourne said they should have the powder, and that Mrs Bourne should bring it to the witness's house in small quantities. M'Can then proposed that, in order to raise money to purchase the gunpowder, a motion should be made in the club of Convivials for a subscription of five shillings each, under pretence of feeing counsel to know whether the marshal had a right to enter his prisoners' apartments when he pleased. This proposal was agreed to, and the motion was accordingly made.

After several other consultations, at which all the prisoners were present, it was agreed that the gunpowder should be deposited in a hole in the floor of Burgh's room—where it was afterwards found.

It was also agreed that, on the day the plot was to be carried into execution, M'Can and Bourne were to have a sham fencing-match for a great deal of money. This was so as to collect together all the prisoners at the time the gunpowder was set fire to, and thereby afford them a chance of making their escape.

At length the day was fixed for a Sunday, about seven o'clock in the evening, being a time at which a number of strangers were likely to be in the prison.

Cummings had the sole management of this plot. Burgh said that the noise and confusion it would create would, he hoped, bring about a revolution in this country.

H. T. Hendacre confirmed the substance of the evidence of the last witness, as did Mr Battersley. These witnesses stated, by way of addition, that Davis gave half-a-guinea to purchase some gunpowder; that the prisoners carried on a correspondence with a society in the borough of Southwark; that Mr Dundas's house was one that was fixed on for destruction; that the prisoners had two schemes in contemplation

to effect their escape—the one was to tie down all the turnkeys, the other the gunpowder plot in question, of which Cummings had the sole conduct, he being considered the engineer.

Lord Kenyon summed up the whole of the evidence in the most able and impartial manner; after which the jury found all the prisoners guilty.

On Tuesday, 12th of February, 1793, the prisoners were brought to receive judgment of the Court.

The prisoner Cummings produced a petition, in which he stated that he had been for several years an officer in his Majesty's service, and had then two sons in the army, who, in consequence of the calamitous situation of the prisoner, were deprived of the education and support necessary to their station and rank. He stated several other circumstances in mitigation of punishment.

The prisoner Townley M'Can produced an affidavit, in which he stated that he was a student of law, and had formed an opinion from several writers that imprisonment for debt was illegal; he disclaimed any criminal intention, and positively denied that he or his fellow-prisoners had carried on a correspondence with the Revolution Society in the Borough, or ever had a design to kill the two great law lords —as alleged by a witness at the trial. The prisoners were severally sentenced to three years' imprisonment, but in different prisons.

THE REV. MR JACKSON

Convicted of Treason, in Dublin, 23rd of April, 1793, but who died of Poison at the Bar of the Court, at the Moment Death would have been pronounced upon him

THE Rev. Mr Jackson was a native of Ireland, and a minister of the Church of England. Early in life he was a preacher at Tavistock Chapel, and resided for several years in chambers in London.

The emoluments of his clerical occupation not affording him a sufficient subsistence, he applied his talents to

literature, and was for a considerable time editor of a newspaper, in which situation he made himself very conspicuous. He took a decided part in the quarrel between the Duchess of Kingston and Mr Foote, and is blamed for having treated the latter with too much asperity. He was a sharer in the romantic scheme of the Royalty Theatre, and was obliged to abscond for a considerable time on account of the pecuniary difficulties in which it involved him.

Afterwards he entered into a criminal conspiracy, and was tried at Dublin for high treason on the 23rd of April, 1795, at eleven o'clock. The indictment charged the prisoner with two species of treason—namely, compassing the King's death, and adhering to his enemies—and stated fourteen overt acts. The Attorney-General opened the prosecution on the part of the Crown, and called Mr Cockayne, an attorney of London, who deposed that he had been for a series of years the law agent and intimate friend of Mr Jackson, who, a few years before, went to France (as the witness understood) to transact some private business for Mr Pitt, where he resided a considerable time. Soon after his return Mr Cockayne said he called on Jackson, who told him in confidence that he had formed a design of going to Ireland, to sound the people, for the purpose of procuring a supply of provisions, etc., from them for the French, and requested him (the witness) to accompany him. Having accepted the invitation, witness immediately waited on Mr Pitt, and discovered to him the whole of Mr Jackson's plans. The Minister thanked him for the information, and hinted that, as the matter was to become a subject of legal investigation, it would be necessary for him to substantiate the allegations; but this Mr Cockayne wished to decline, on the principle that if the prisoner were convicted of high treason he should lose by it three hundred pounds, in which sum he then was indebted to him. This objection was soon removed by Mr Pitt agreeing to pay him the money, provided he would prosecute to conviction; and the witness accompanied Mr Jackson to Ireland for the purpose of making himself acquainted with his proceedings.

Shortly after their arrival in Dublin, where they lived together, the prisoner expressed a wish to be introduced to Mr Hamilton Rowan, who was then confined in Newgate; and at length, through the interference of a friend, he obtained an interview, at which Mr Cockayne was present. In the course of conversation the prisoner delivered two papers to Mr Rowan, for the purpose of convincing him that he was a person in whom he might confide. From that time an intimacy took place between them; the witness always accompanied Mr Jackson on his visits to Mr Rowan, and constantly took a part in their conversation.

They agreed, he said, that a person should be sent to France to procure a force to make a descent on Ireland, and Counsellor Wolfe Tone was mentioned as a fit person for that purpose, who at first appeared to acquiesce, but afterwards declined the office. Dr Reynolds was then proposed by Mr Rowan, but objected to by the prisoner, as he did not understand the French language. It was, however, at length agreed that the Doctor should take the embassy; but in a short time he also refused to enter into the business. On this it was agreed that Mr Jackson should write several letters, which were directed to a Mr Stone, of the firm of Lawrence & Co., London. These contained enclosures for houses at Hamburg and Amsterdam; and some of them, to the French agents, described the situation of Ireland at the time, invited an invasion, and pointed out the proper places to land. These letters being sent to the post office, the witness then went to the secretary and informed him of the subject of them, on which they were detained. The plot matured thus far; having been discovered, the prisoner was taken into custody.

The jury found him guilty; but on his being brought into court to receive judgment it was intimated to the Court that the prisoner appeared to be in a very dangerous situation, in point of bodily weakness, having for some time—even from his first being brought into court—appeared to be uncommonly agitated. Dr Waite, who was in the county jury-box, went down to the dock, and, after examining the

prisoner, reported that he was in a sinking situation, and had every appearance of immediate dissolution. Mr Kingsley, druggist, who said he had been bred an apothecary, also examined the prisoner, and reported that he was dying. On this the Court ordered that the prisoner should be remanded until further orders; but in a few moments the unfortunate man expired in the dock. The Court immediately adjourned. The coroner's inquest was held the next day, when Surgeons Hume and Adrian opened the body, and deposed he died in consequence of having taken some acrid substance, but what they could not tell.

LAURENCE JONES

A Notorious Swindler, sentenced to Death in 1793, *but who hanged himself Three Days before the Date of his Execution*

LAURENCE JONES was born in London, and early in life became a swindler. Having a considerable sum of money left him by a relation, he took a very handsome house in St James's, which he elegantly furnished, and kept his carriage and servants, who, by the by, were accomplices to carry on the deception, which he did with great success for some months.

During his abode in this place he defrauded Mr Hudson, a silversmith, of plate to the value of nearly three thousand pounds; Mr Kempton, a mercer, of silks and other goods to a large amount; and Mr Bailey, a watchmaker and jeweller, of a gold repeater, etc., etc., to the value of three hundred pounds. The time for payment being almost up, and suspicion being entertained of his pretensions to property, he thought it time to decamp, and he managed just in time to escape a warrant out against him.

After this he lived privately for some time, that suspicion might die away before he again began his fraudulent practices, which he carried on with his usual success, till he failed in an affair in Hatton Garden, for which he was condemned.

Mr Campbell was the collecting clerk to Vere, Lucadou & Co., bankers, in Lombard Street, and in the course of his business he called at a house (which was hired for the express purpose of preying upon the unwary) for the payment of a bill—a scheme concerted before by the villains.

No sooner had he knocked at the door than it was opened by a person, in appearance a gentleman, who desired him to walk into the counting-house; when he did so, a man came behind him and covered his head and face over with a thick cap, so that he could see nothing. They then threw him on the floor and wrapped him up in green baize, in which condition they bound him hand and foot and carried him downstairs, when they proceeded to rob him. They took from him his pocket-book, with bank-notes and bills to the amount of nine hundred pounds. They then took measures to prevent a discovery before they should receive the money for the bills, etc., with which one of the gang immediately went out to turn them into cash, while the rest, in the meantime, handled the unfortunate young man in the following manner.

They first laid him flat on his back on a board and chained him hand and foot, and then carried him downstairs into a back kitchen, where they chained him to the bars of a copper grate, threatening that if he made a noise they would blow his brains out. They then left him, after placing before him some bread, some ham and some water. In this condition he remained for about eight hours, when his cries were heard by a man who was at work in a house behind that in which Mr Campbell was confined. It was not long before he was set at liberty and restored to his friends, to their great joy, and the infinite satisfaction of his employers.

Jones was apprehended by Jealous and Kennedy, officers of Bow Street, at the King's Arms, in Bridge Street, Westminster.

Being committed to Newgate, he was afterwards tried, and found guilty, when he received sentence, and was ordered for execution on Wednesday, the 8th of December, 1793, in Hatton Garden, near the house where he com-

mitted the robbery; but on the Saturday previous thereto, about six o'clock in the morning, when the turnkey entered the cell to prepare him to hear the condemned sermon and receive the Sacrament, he found him dead. It appears that he had made several attempts on his life before, but was prevented, and the manner in which he at last accomplished this worst of all crimes was very extraordinary. He had taken the knee-strings with which his fetters were supported and tied them round his neck, then, tying the other end to the ring which his chain was fastened to, he placed his feet against the wall and strangled himself. The coroner's jury pronounced a verdict of *felo-de-se*.

In consequence of the above verdict the body was carried out of Newgate extended upon a plank, on the top of an open cart, in his clothes, and fettered, and his face covered with a white cloth, to the brow of Holborn Hill, directly opposite to the end of Hatton Garden. The procession was attended by the sheriffs, city marshals and nearly five hundred constables.

ELIZABETH MARSH

A Fifteen-year-old Girl, executed for the Murder of her Grandfather, March, 1794

AT Dorchester Assizes, March, 1794, Elizabeth Marsh, a girl only fifteen years of age, was convicted of the murder of her grandfather, John Nevil, at Modern, was condemned, and ordered to be executed forty-eight hours after.

This girl lived with her grandfather, and, with the most deliberate malice, deprived the old man (who was seventy years of age) of his life, by giving him two dreadful blows on the head while he was asleep. This unhappy wretch was bred in such extreme ignorance that she declared she had been wholly unacquainted with the difference between good and evil, heaven and hell. She was executed according to her sentence.

HENRY GOODIFF

A Boy condemned to Death for robbing a Pieman, who had swindled him on Hounslow Heath, of a few Halfpence, March, 1794

THE particulars of this youth's offence were simply these: he had been reprimanded by his parents for some boyish indiscretion, and, like many more headstrong sons, left his paternal roof, rambling he knew not whither, when, upon Hounslow Heath, he met one of those knavish pastry pedlars who cheat boys and girls and ignorant country clowns, in pretending to toss up for his penny pies.

Poor Goodiff thought fortune might enable him to fill his empty stomach at an easy rate, and therefore staked his *all*—a few pence—with the pieman; but, alas! he lost his fortune without even touching one of the savoury bits on which Hunger had fixed her mark.

Stung with disappointment he attacked the pieman, and forcibly took away from him the miserable pittance of which he conceived himself to have been cheated. This was, in the eye of the law, a highway robbery; and the vindictive gambler in tarts, finding the lad to be of good family, thought to extort high damages for the indignity and loss which he had received, but in seeking redress he went too far; for, applying to one of those human sharks who hover round the Old Bailey pretending to be attorneys-at-law, he laid the indictment for a capital offence, from which no interest could rescue his prisoner from a disgraceful conviction, and subject to an ignominious death.

For this offence the unfortunate boy was actually convicted, at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to die, in March, 1794.

On the representation of this case to the Privy Council his Majesty's pardon was granted, on condition the boy served him in the navy.

The youth disdainfully refused the proffered mercy, and

insisted on undergoing his sentence; but his afflicted parents persuaded him to the contrary, and he was conducted from Newgate to the tender which lay at anchor in the Thames, near the Tower, for the purpose of receiving impressed men.

ANNE BROADRIC

Indicted for murdering a Man who had jilted her for another Woman, 17th of July, 1794

THE case of this unfortunate young woman excited universal pity at the time of its occurrence.

It appeared that Mr Errington, the object of her attack, was a gentleman of large landed and personal property, residing at Grays, in Essex, and his name had become well known from the circumstance of his having been divorced from his wife a few years before the melancholy event which we are about to relate. About three years after the termination of the proceedings in the ecclesiastical courts he became acquainted with Miss Broadric, who was a young lady possessed of considerable accomplishments, of a fine figure, and personal charms. Miss Broadric before this had lived with a Captain Robinson, but it appears that, being addressed by Mr Errington with great solicitude, she consented to reside with him in the character of his wife. A mutual attachment sprang up in the course of their connection; but after a lapse of three years, during which they lived together with every appearance of domestic felicity, Mr Errington bestowed his affections and his hand on a lady of respectability in the neighbourhood, acquainting Miss Broadric that he could see her no more. On her quitting him he made what he conceived to be a suitable provision for her future wants, and she retired, apparently deeply grieved at the unfortunate change which had taken place in the feelings of her late protector. On the 11th of April, 1794, she wrote a letter to him in the following terms:—

Dear Errington,—That you have betrayed and abandoned the most tender and affectionate heart that ever warmed a human bosom cannot be denied by any person who is in the least acquainted with me. Wretched and miserable as I have been since you left me, there is still a method remaining that would suspend, for a time, the melancholy sufferings and distress which I labour under at this moment; and still, inhuman as thou art, I am half persuaded, when I tell you the power is in your hands, that you will not withhold it from me. What I allude to is the permission of seeing you once more, and, perhaps, for the last time. If you consider that the request comes from a woman you once flattered into a belief of her being the sole possessor of your love, you may not perhaps think it unreasonable. Recollect, however, Errington, ere you send a refusal, that the roaring of the tempest and the lightnings from heaven are not more terrible than the rage and vengeance of a disappointed woman. Hitherto you can only answer for the weakness and frailty of my nature. There is a further knowledge of my disposition you must have if you do not grant me the favour demanded. I wish it to come voluntarily from yourself, or else I will force it from you. Believe me, in that case, I would seek you in the farthest corner of the globe, rush into your presence, and, with the same rapture that nerved the arm of Charlotte Corday, when she assassinated the monster Marat, would I put an end to the existence of a man who is the author of all the agonies and care that at present oppress the heart of

Anne Broadric.

P.S.—This comes by William (the servant you have discarded on my account), who has orders to wait for your answer.

Her request being refused, she persisted, by letters, to endeavour to induce Mr Errington to permit her once more to see him, but finding him inexorable she wrote to him that if nothing could induce him to do her an act of justice he must prepare himself for the fatal alternative,

as she was determined that he should not long survive his infidelity.

To this, as well as to the rest of her letters, Mr Errington preserved a strict silence, and, about a month after, Miss Broadric carried out her dreadful resolution. On Friday morning, the 15th of May, she dressed herself elegantly, and, going to the Three Nuns Inn, Whitechapel, she took her place in the Southend coach, which passed close to Mr Errington's seat. She descended at the avenue gate and went towards the house, but being seen by Mr Errington, he begged Mrs Errington to retire for a few minutes, saying that his tormentor was coming, but that he would soon get rid of her. The latter, however, desired him to leave the interview to her management, and requested her husband to go into the drawing-room while she awaited the arrival of Miss Broadric in the parlour. In the meantime the latter had entered the house by the kitchen, and, having learned from the footman that Mr Errington was at home, she was proceeding upstairs, attended by the gardener, when she met Mrs Errington.

She demanded to see Mr Errington, but was told that he was not to be seen. Saying, "I am not to be so satisfied; I know the ways of this house too well, and will search for him," she rushed upstairs into the drawing-room. She there found the object of her inquiry and, going up to him, she suddenly drew from her pocket a small brass-barrelled pistol, with a new hagged flint, and presenting it to his left side, in a direction towards his heart, exclaimed: "Errington, I am come to perform my dreadful promise." Then she immediately fired. Mrs Errington, who had followed her, fainted, but Miss Broadric, observing that Mr Errington did not fall, said she feared she had not dispatched him. Mr Errington demanded to know how he had deserved such treatment at her hands, but she made no answer; the servants, alarmed by the report of the pistol, then came into the room, when she threw the pistol on the carpet, and exclaimed, laughing: "Here, take me; hang me; do what you like with me; I do not care now."

Mr Miller, a surgeon, soon after attended, and found that the ball had penetrated the lowest rib, had cut three ribs asunder, and then passed round the back and lodged under the shoulder bone, from whence every effort was made to extract it, but in vain. Mr Button, a magistrate, now came, who took the examination of Mr Errington after his wound was dressed. He asked Miss Broadric what could have induced her to commit such an act of extreme violence, and her answer was that she was determined that neither Mr Errington nor herself should long outlive her lost peace of mind. Mr Errington entreated the magistrate not to detain her in custody, but let her depart, as he was sure he should do well; but this request Miss Broadric refused to accept, and the magistrate to grant. Her commitment being made out, she was conveyed that evening to Chelmsford Jail, where she remained tolerably composed till she heard of Mr Errington's death, when she burst into a flood of tears, and lamented bitterly that she had been its cause. The coroner's inquest sat on the body on Tuesday, the 19th of May, and brought in their verdict, "Wilful murder, by the hands of Anne Broadric." Mr Errington was in the thirty-ninth year of his age.

Friday, the 17th of July, was fixed for the trial of the prisoner, and at six o'clock in the morning the prisoner was conveyed from the jail, in a chaise, to a room in the shire hall; and about ten minutes before Lord Chief Baron Macdonald, the sheriffs and magistrates appeared on the bench she was conveyed into the bail dock in the Criminal Court, attended by three ladies and her apothecary. She was dressed in mourning, without powder; and after the first perturbations were over, occasioned by the concourse of surrounding spectators, she sat down on a chair prepared for her, and was tolerably composed, except at intervals, when she discovered violent agitations, as her mind became affected by various objects and circumstances. While the indictment was being read she paid marked attention to it; and on the words, "that on the right breast of the said G. Errington she did wilfully and feloniously inflict one

mortal wound," etc., she exclaimed, " Oh, my great God ! " and burst into a torrent of tears.

The facts above stated having been proved in evidence, the prisoner's counsel proceeded to call witnesses in support of her defence, who all joined in stating that they had known her repeatedly to exhibit symptoms of insanity.

This defence was not traversed by the counsel on the other side, and the jury, after a few minutes' consideration, returned a verdict of not guilty.

The judges, on leaving the town, after the assizes were over, directed that Miss Broadric should be examined before two magistrates, that she might be safely removed, under their order, to the place of her settlement; with a particular recommendation annexed thereto that she might be taken all possible care of.

LEWIS JEREMIAH AVERSHAW

Executed on Kennington Common, 3rd of August, 1795, for shooting a Peace Officer in the act of apprehending him

LEWIS JEREMIAH AVERSHAW was an old offender, and had committed numerous crimes which called aloud for justice. At length he was brought to trial before Mr Baron Perryn, at Croydon, in the county of Surrey, on the 30th of July, 1795, charged on two indictments: one for having, at the Three Brewers public-house, Southwark, feloniously shot at and murdered D. Price, an officer belonging to the police office held at Union Hall, in the Borough; the other for having, at the same time and place, fired a pistol at Bernard Turner, another officer attached to the office at Union Hall, with an intent to murder him.

Mr Garrow, the leading counsel for the prosecution, opened his case to the Court and jury by stating that the prisoner at the bar, being a person of ill fame, had been suspected of having perpetrated a number of felonies. The magistrates of the police office in the borough of Southwark,

having received information against the prisoner, sent, as was their duty, an order for his apprehension. To execute the warrant, the deceased Price and another officer went to the Three Brewers, a public-house, where they understood he then was drinking, in company with some other persons. At the entrance of a parlour in the house the prisoner appeared in a posture of intending to resist. Holding a loaded pistol in each of his hands, he, with threats and imprecations, desired the officers to stand off, as he would otherwise fire at them. The officers, without being intimidated by those menaces, attempted to rush in and seize him, on which the prisoner discharged both the pistols at the same instant of time, and lodged the contents of the one in the body of David Price, and with the other wounded Turner very severely in the head. Price, after languishing a few hours, died of the wound.

The jury, after a consultation of about three minutes, pronounced the verdict of guilty. Through a flaw in the indictment for the murder an objection was taken by counsel. This was urged nearly two hours, when Mr Baron Perryn intimated a wish to take the opinion of the twelve judges of England, but the counsel for the prosecution, waiving the point for the present, insisted on the prisoner's being tried on the second indictment, for feloniously shooting at Barnaby Windsor, which, the learned counsel said, would occupy no great portion of time, as it could be sufficiently supported by the testimony of a single witness. He was accordingly tried, and found guilty on a second capital indictment. The prisoner, who, contrary to general expectation, had in a great measure hitherto refrained from his usual audacity, began, with unparalleled insolence of expression and gesture, to ask his Lordship if he was to be murdered by the evidence of one witness. Several times he repeated the question, till the jury returned him guilty.

When Mr Baron Perryn put on the judicial cap, the prisoner, unconcerned, and regardless of his sad situation, at the same time put on his hat, observing the judge with contemptuous looks while he was passing the awful sentence.

When the constables were removing him from the dock to the coach he continued to vent torrents of abuse against the judge and jury, whom he charged with, as he styled it, his murder. As his desperate disposition was well known he was, to prevent resistance, handcuffed, and his thighs and arms bound strongly together, in which situation he was conveyed back to prison.

So callous was this ruffian to every degree of feeling that on his way to be tried, as he was passing near the usual place of execution on Kennington Common, he put his head out of the coach window and, with all the sang-froid imaginable, asked some of those who guarded him if they did not think he would be *twisted* on that pretty spot by Saturday.

Having got some black cherries in prison, he amused himself with painting, on the white walls of the room in which he was confined, various sketches of robberies which he had committed, one representing him running up to the horses' heads of a post-chaise, presenting a pistol at the driver, and the words, "D—n your eyes, stop!" issuing out of his mouth; another, where he was firing into the chaise; a third, where the parties had quitted the carriage, and several others, in which he was depicted in the act of taking the money from the passengers, being fired at, and where his companion was shot dead, etc.

At the place of execution he appeared entirely unconcerned; he had a flower in his mouth, his bosom was thrown open, and he kept up an incessant conversation with the persons who rode beside the cart, frequently laughing and nodding to others of his acquaintance whom he perceived in the crowd, which was immense.

He suffered, 3rd of August, 1795, at Kennington Common, with John Little, who, having had employment at the laboratory of the palace at Kew, became acquainted with Mr Macevoy and Mrs King, persons of very advanced years, and who had been many years resident at Kew. Supposing they had some property at home, he watched an opportunity and murdered them both.

KID WAKE

Convicted and imprisoned for an Assault upon his Majesty, on the 20th of February, 1796

IN this case the indictment charged that on the 29th of October, 1795, as the King went in the state coach to the House of Peers to meet his Parliament, Kid Wake, and a number of other disorderly persons, made a great noise, by shouting, hissing, hooting, groaning and calling out, "No war, down with him," etc.; the same indecent behaviour was repeated on his Majesty's return, in which a window of his coach was broken.

Dr Wolford and Mr Stockdale were called on the part of the Crown, and proved the charge in the clearest manner.

Mr Erskine made some observations on the defendant's character.

The Lord Chief Justice said: "Gentlemen of the jury, I have nothing to sum up to you. The question is whether the law which protects every subject under the King's Government is sufficient to protect the King."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty.

When brought up to receive the judgment of the Court, Mr Justice Ashurst addressed the defendant. He said that he had been convicted, upon the clearest and most satisfactory evidence, of a crime of a most atrocious and, he was happy to say, almost of an unprecedented nature. He had experienced much mercy from those by whom he was prosecuted; for if the law had been stretched to its utmost rigour he might have stood convicted of a crime of a much higher nature. The present case afforded a very strong instance of the unequalled mildness of the laws of this country; for he believed this was the only country in the world in which, for such an offence, he would not have paid the forfeit of his life. The evidence adduced at the trial afforded the most convincing proofs that the defendant was a man of a bad and malignant heart, and the explanation which he had since attempted to give of his conduct, in the affidavits which he

had filed, was by no means satisfactory. He had endeavoured to account for the contortions of his countenance by a defect in his sight, which always had the effect of producing a distortion of his features when he attempted to look particularly at any object; but if this could be supposed to account for the contortion of his countenance, it could not for the language he used, such as " no George," etc.

The sentence of the Court was that the prisoner be committed to the custody of the keeper of the penitentiary-house in and for the county of Gloucester, and be kept to hard labour for the space of five years; and within the first three months of that time that he stand in and upon the pillory for one hour, between the hours of eleven and two o'clock in the afternoon, in some public street in Gloucester, on a market-day; and that he give sureties in a thousand pounds for his good behaviour for the term of ten years, to be computed from the expiration of the said five years; and that he be further imprisoned till he find the said sureties.

RICHARD PARKER

The Chief of the Mutineers in the British Fleet. Executed at the Yardarm of L'Espion *Man-of-War in* 1796, *at Sheerness*

RICHARD PARKER had received a good education, was bred to the navy, and about the conclusion of the American War was an acting lieutenant in one of his Majesty's ships. He soon came into the possession of a considerable sum of money, and shortly after he arrived in this country and married a farmer's daughter in Aberdeenshire, with whom he received a decent patrimony.

At this time, being without employment, he devoted himself to every species of dissipation, which soon finished his fortune and involved him in debt, on account of which he was cast into the jail of Edinburgh, where he was at the time the country was raising seamen for the navy.

He then entered as one of the volunteers for Perthshire,

received the bounty, and was released from prison, upon paying the creditor a part of his bounty. He was put on board the tender then in Leith Roads, which carried him, with many others, to the Nore.

On the passage the captain distinguished Parker, both by his activity and polite address. He was known in the mutinous fleet by the appellation of "Admiral Parker," for Captain Watson, of the Leith tender, before he sailed from the Nore, was ordered, by the crew of the *Sandwich*, to come on board, which he did, and was then introduced to, and interrogated by, Parker, whom he knew on first sight. Parker also recollected him, and from this circumstance he experienced great favour.

Parker ordered every man on board to treat Captain Watson well, saying he was a seamen's friend, and had treated him well, and that if any man used him otherwise he should instantly be—— Here he pointed to the rope at the yardarm.

Captain Watson took an opportunity of hinting to Parker the impropriety of his conduct, and the consequences that might follow. It seemed to throw a momentary damp on his spirits; but he expressed a wish to waive the subject, and Captain Watson proceeded on his voyage.

The mutiny was happily suppressed, and a considerable reward being offered for the apprehension of Parker, the accounted ringleader, on the arrival of Lieutenant Mott, with the proclamations, etc., the crews of all the ships readily submitted. Parker himself could not oppose this spirit.

In consequence of this the *Sandwich* came under the guns of Sheerness, and Admiral Buckner's boat, commanded by the coxswain, and containing a picket guard of the West York Militia, went on board, to bring Parker on shore.

Several of the officers of the *Sandwich* were on deck, but very few of the men appeared. As soon as Parker heard that a boat had come for him he surrendered himself to four of the ship's crew, to protect him against the outrages of the other seamen, whose vengeance he feared.

Admiral Buckner's coxswain told the officers on deck

his business, and claimed their assistance. The lieutenant drew his sword, and the party, consisting of eight or ten, went down below, where Parker was surrendered into their hands. They tied his hands together behind, and the officers conducted him into the boat, which had eight or ten rowers, and a party of the West York Militia seated in the head, with their faces towards the stern, and their muskets held upright in their hands, ready charged. Parker was seated in the stern part, with his face towards the head; behind him was the coxswain, and before him the lieutenant of the *Sandwich*, holding a drawn sword over him. On landing, he was much hissed, when he said aloud: "Do not hoot me; it is not my fault. I will clear myself."

He was then sent to Maidstone Jail, under a strong guard, his arms being tied behind his back. After a long trial, which commenced soon after his apprehension, he was found guilty.

After a solemn pause of nearly ten minutes the Lord Advocate rose and, with his head uncovered, read the awful sentence—viz. "The Court adjudges Richard Parker to suffer death, and to be hanged by the neck, on board any one of his Majesty's ships, and at such time as the Lords of the Admiralty may think proper to appoint."

The prisoner then withdrew, and was soon after put in irons.

The time of his execution was fixed for Friday, the 30th of June. At eight o'clock in the morning a gun was fired on board his Majesty's ship *L'Espion*, lying off Sheerness garrison, Vice-Admiral Lutwidge's flagship, and the yellow flag, the signal of capital punishment, was hoisted, which was immediately repeated by the *Sandwich* hoisting the same colour on her foretop.

The prisoner was awakened a little after six o'clock, from a sound sleep, by the provost-marshal, who, with a file of marines, composed his guard; he arose with cheerfulness, and requested permission might be asked for a barber to attend him, which was granted. He soon dressed himself in a neat suit of mourning (waistcoat excepted), wearing his

half-boots over a pair of black silk stockings. He then took his breakfast, talked of a will he had written, in which he had bequeathed to his wife a little estate he said he was heir to, and after that lamented the misfortune that had been brought on the country by the mutiny, but solemnly denied having the least connection or correspondence with any disaffected persons ashore; and declared that it was chiefly owing to him that the ships had not been carried into the enemy's ports.

At nine o'clock the preparatory gun was fired from *L'Espion*, which he heard without the slightest emotion. His arms were now bound, and the procession moved from the quarterdeck to the forecastle, passing through a double file of marines on the starboard side, to a platform erected on the cat-head, with an elevated projection. Arriving there, he knelt with the chaplain, and joined in some devout ejaculations, to all of which he repeated loudly, "Amen." Rising again, the Admiral's warrant of execution, addressed to Captain Moss, was now read by the clerk, in which the sentence of the court martial, the order of the Board of Admiralty and his Majesty's approbation of the whole proceedings were fully recited, which the prisoner heard with great attention, and bowed his head, as if in assent, at the close of it. He now asked the captain whether he might be allowed to speak, and immediately apprehending his intention might be misconceived he added: "I am not going, sir, to address the ship's company. I wish only to declare that I acknowledge the justice of the sentence under which I suffer; and I hope my death may be deemed a sufficient atonement, and save the lives of others."

He then requested a minute to collect himself, and knelt down alone, about that space of time; then rose up and said: "I am ready." Holding his head up, he said to the boatswain's mate: "Take off my handkerchief" (of black silk); which was done, and the provost-marshal placed the halter over his head. He now ascended the platform. The cap was then drawn over his face, and he walked by firm degrees up to the extremity of the scaffold,

and dropped a white handkerchief, which he had borrowed from one of the gentlemen present, and put his hands in his coat-pockets with great rapidity. At the moment he sprang off, the fatal bow-gun fired, and the reeve-rope, catching him, ran him up, though not with great velocity, to the yardarm. When suspended about midway his body appeared extremely convulsed for a few seconds, immediately after which no appearance of life remained.

WILLIAM LEE

Executed before Newgate, 20th of April, 1796, for Burglary

WILLIAM LEE was an Irishman, and he broke into the shop of John Dingwell and Gerald Baillieu, then eminent jewellers in St James's Street, and stole from thence a quantity of diamonds and other valuable articles. With this booty he set off for Dublin, and there offered a large diamond pin for sale, to Mr Ambrose Moore, a jeweller. Mr Moore, suspecting that Lee did not come honestly into possession of so valuable an article, interrogated him accordingly; and the thief replied that his wife lived as servant to the Princesses Elizabeth, Mary and Sophia, by whom the pin had been given her.

This story of Royal generosity did not, however, satisfy the Irish jeweller, who caused our hero to be apprehended as a suspicious person, and he was committed to Dublin Bridewell, where he offered the keeper, Richard Warren, seven hundred pounds' worth of diamonds to favour his escape, swearing that he would never discover the manner of his enlargement.

The keeper affected to agree to these terms, whereupon Lee delivered him a number of diamonds, but the faithless jailer detained both them and his prisoner.

News of this transaction reaching London, Messrs Dingwell & Baillieu applied to the Secretary of State, who directed Warren to bring his prisoner and the diamonds to London. On his arrival at the Old Bailey, Moore proved the transaction of the pin, and Warren produced the bribe of

diamonds, which Mr Baillieu swore was the property of his partner and himself.

Hannah Hannats proved that the prisoner set off for Dublin with one Sarah Chandler, who was disguised in man's apparel.

The diamond stealer was convicted, and executed before Newgate, on the 20th of April, 1796.

HENRY WESTON

Betrayed his Employer's Confidence, committed Forgery, and was executed before Newgate, 6th of July, 1796

HENRY WESTON belonged to a very respectable family in Ireland, and was recommended to Mr Cowan, of Ely Place, to manage his army agency concerns. Henry's attention to business was such as soon gained him the confidence of his employer. Mr Cowan, about the year 1794, having occasion to be absent in the country, gave Weston an unlimited order to draw upon his banker for any sums he might want; and to this implicit confidence upon his part may be dated the origin of the young man's ruin, for, having no person to overlook or to be a check upon him, he was tempted to hazard a large sum of money at a gaming-house in Pall Mall, which he lost; and, having gamed away nearly the whole property of his employer, he was at length induced, in the hope of recovering it, to forge the name of General Tonyn to a warrant of attorney, whereby he received upwards of ten thousand pounds at the bank, which sum did not uphold his extravagance more than two nights.

This matter lay undiscovered for some time, as he remitted the General's dividends regularly upon their becoming due. He likewise obtained from his cousin, Sir Hugh Walter, a large part of the fortune left him by his uncles, under the pretence of laying it out to advantage in the stocks, all of which was sunk at the gaming-table. This brought him to such a state of desperation that, to obtain more money, he had the audacity to take a woman to the bank to personate the sister of General Tonyn, and in consequence obtained

another considerable sum. This he had a favourable opportunity of doing, as he was in the habit of transacting money affairs for that lady, who had met him about two months before at the Panorama, where she accused him of neglecting her payments.

Finding at length he could hold out no longer, he set off, about four o'clock on Friday, for Liverpool, where he was arrested on board a vessel on the point of sailing for America. He made several attempts to destroy himself, by cutting his throat.

His trial came on on 14th of May, at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, before Mr Common Serjeant.

The prisoner, after a most affecting trial, was found guilty. The jury having delivered their verdict, the prisoner addressed the Court in these words:

"My Lord and gentlemen of the jury, the verdict which has now been passed upon me I hear with calmness and resignation, which I am happy in possessing upon so awful an occasion. I am, my Lord, as my appearance may easily show, a very young man. I hope the numerous young men who surround me will take example by my fate, and avoid those successes, and fatal vice of gambling, which have brought me to ruin and disgrace, and I hope too that those further advanced in years will be cautious not to confine with too unlimited a control the management of their concerns to the care of inexperienced young men. The justice of my condemnation I acknowledge, and shall submit to it with patience and, I hope, with fortitude."

Sentence of death was passed; and as Weston entertained an abhorrence of being seen by the mob upon the scaffold he expressed an earnest desire that the platform should drop the moment he was tied to the gallows.

Another malefactor, named John Roberts, was sentenced to die at the same time, and Weston found it necessary to have his consent. One of the clergymen who attended Weston undertook to negotiate the melancholy business.

Upon Roberts being informed of the wish of his fellow-sufferer he replied: "What! Is Weston afraid of being

seen? That is not my case. I am not only willing that the people should see me, but likewise take warning by my untimely end; and therefore I desire to have the usual prayers under the gallows." The ordinary replied that he had a right to that indulgence, and it should be granted.

On the morning of the execution the Sacrament was administered by the ordinary, who afterwards prayed with the unhappy prisoners on the scaffold, attended by one of the divines alone, as the other two could not make up their minds to go on the platform, though requested by the unhappy young Weston.

When the executioner put on the cap, Weston pulled it as far as he possibly could over his face, and at the same time held a white handkerchief to his mouth, so that, during prayers, the populace could by no means see his countenance. He wept abundantly just before he was turned off, and squeezed the minister's hand, being no doubt at that time much agitated.

CHARLES SCOLDWELL

A Sheriff Officer, convicted of stealing Two Ducks, and sentenced on 23rd of July, 1796, to Transportation for Seven Years

CHARLES SCOLDWELL was a sheriff officer, and the extraordinary crime of which he was convicted took place at Bedfont, near Hammersmith. The trial came on at the Old Bailey, before the recorder, on the 23rd of July, 1796. The indictment charged him with feloniously stealing two live tame ducks, and it was stated by Mr Ally, counsel for the prosecution, that this theft, or act of grand larceny, was attended with many aggravating circumstances of oppression.

The prisoner, who was a servant of the law, was executing a writ which he had against the prosecutor, Mr Spurling; the debt amounted to sixteen pounds, seven shillings. At ten at night the prisoner obtained admission to Mr Spurling,

and informed him that he had a writ against him, and he must immediately go with him to Newgate. To this the prosecutor demurred as to the harshness of the intended removal, for if there was any demand against him he was ready to settle it. The prisoner replied: "No, no, you shall not settle it; you must immediately come with me to Newgate, and you must hire a post-chaise." Poor Mr Spurling replied: "It is hard to be obliged to hire a post-chaise to carry oneself to Newgate; if you will take me in a humble single horse-chaise, which I have of my own, I will go with you to Newgate." The prisoner's follower, whose name was Taylor, said he thought they had better settle the matter; and, in the prisoner's presence, asked him what kind of accommodation he could afford. Mr Spurling said: "I have fifteen pounds in the house that you shall have, and something else to secure the balance, being one pound, seven shillings." Upon this the prisoner asked him if he had a watch, and he replied in the affirmative. The prisoner immediately said: "I must have that." This treatment was the more oppressive at that period as his wife was then very near that crisis when every good husband is more than ordinarily careful of his wife's safety, and therefore Mr Spurling, rather than leave his wife in that situation, gave the prisoner his watch, which he took, together with the fifteen pounds already mentioned. Scoldwell had no sooner got possession of these than he increased his demand. Said he: "This is a trifling thing; such gentlemen as we are cannot come into the country without something to bear our expenses." Upon that he asked the prosecutor for some money; who replied that he had only a few halfpence left, which he had taken in the course of his trade that day, and which amounted to about ten shillings. The prisoner, Scoldwell, received that ten shillings also. Soon after he asked if there were no fowls about the house. Mr Spurling told him he had only one or two. Then the prisoner inquired for a goose, because, he said, his wife was very fond of goose. The prosecutor said he had one; and the prisoner said he would take it to town.

On the prosecutor's remonstrating with him, the prisoner said he must have a goose. The prosecutor then let him have one.

Still the rapacity of this man was not satisfied. He was no sooner possessed of this but, taking advantage of the prosecutor's peculiar situation with respect to his wife, he pursued his demands, extending even to the lease of the house. The prosecutor, wearied with his repeated exactions, told him the lease was his all, for he had expended three hundred pounds on the premises a short time before. However, the prisoner obtained possession of this lease also. These demands being thus complied with, the prisoner at the bar was still discontented. He said: "I must have a note for forty pounds on condition that the lease, watch and everything shall be mine, unless this debt and costs are legally settled within twenty-one days." This note, also, the prosecutor gave him; and here was a termination to such almost boundless rapacity. The prisoner left the prosecutor at about four or five in the morning, who, having to prepare his bread, retired to his bakehouse. He saw the prisoner, however, going towards the stable, in which were those two ducks which were the subject of inquiry. The prisoner soon after left the stable and went away. About six in the morning the prosecutor's wife ordered the ducks to be let out and fed, as they formerly had been, but the ducks were gone from the stable. The prosecutor, it appears, saw those two ducks there about two hours before; and he could prove positively that they were actually in the stable at that very time. He could also prove that nobody went into the stable but the prisoner; and a sort of confession, or at least an admission, by the prisoner himself was established that he was the person who stole these ducks, for it happened that the prisoner, as he was coming back to town, met with a driver of a stage-coach. He got on the top of the coach, and in the course of a few miles, not foreseeing, at the moment, the event of the evening, tapped the coachman on the shoulder, and cried out: "Quack! Quack! Tick! Tick!" The coachman asked what he meant. The

prisoner replied: "I have done the baker out of his ducks! I have done the baker out of his watch!" When they had proceeded a great way farther, the coachman stopped to water, and the ducks falling out of the prisoner's pocket the coachman said to him: "Mr Constable, if you do not take care you will lose the ducks you have stolen." His reply was not a denial of that charge. "No, no," says he, "I will take care; I will keep them fast."

After the examination of several witnesses, the fact, as laid in the indictment, being clearly proved, the recorder summed up the evidence; and the jury, after half-an-hour's consideration, returned a verdict of guilty.

The prisoner, aged forty-one, was sentenced to be transported for seven years.

JOHN CLARKE

Executed near Bromley, in Kent, 29th of July, 1796, for murdering a Dairymaid

JOHN CLARKE was gardener to Charles Long, Esq., near Bromley, in Kent, and at the Summer Assizes for 1796, at Maidstone, was indicted for the wilful murder of Elizabeth Mann, his fellow-servant, who lived as dairymaid with that gentleman.

The deceased was observed, a few days before she was murdered, to appear very much dejected, in consequence of the prisoner's not paying that attention to her which he was accustomed to do. The day on which she disappeared was a Monday, and on the Tuesday she was found by the steward and coachman in the dairy, with a deep wound in her throat and a cord fastened tight round her neck. From the intimacy which subsisted between the prisoner and her, their suspicions fell on him; in consequence of which two officers from Bow Street were sent for, who, on their arrival at Mr Long's house, went to the dairy, where, after a strict search, nothing was found that could possibly create a

suspicion that the unfortunate young woman had been guilty of suicide.

They immediately took Clarke into custody. He denied knowing anything of the matter; but, in stating how he had been employed on the Monday evening on which the murder was perpetrated, he contradicted himself in his several relations.

A piece of rope was then produced, which had been found in the tool-house of the prisoner, which proved to be of the very same manufacture, texture and size as that found about the neck of the deceased.

The jury, after a short deliberation, found him guilty. He was ordered for execution, and his body afterwards to be dissected.

JOSEPH HODGES AND RICHARD PROBIN

Convicted at the Old Bailey, 1796, *of a Confidence Trick called Cross-Dropping, and sentenced to Transportation*

FORMERLY this description of fraud was frequently practised in London upon countrymen. The dupe, in the present instance, was William Headley, an ironmonger at Cambridge, who, on the trial of these robbers, deposed that on the 7th of July, 1796, he was going from Shoe Lane to the Angel Inn, St Clement's, to take a place on the outside of the coach, to see his brother in Wiltshire. He met Hodges in Butcher Row, and left him to take his place. Having taken it, Hodges overtook him in Portugal Street, but before he saw him he beheld a parcel lying at his right foot. Hodges clapped a hazel cane on the parcel, picked up the parcel, and tore away the middle part of the paper, and showed the red, which appeared like a pocket-book. He put it into his pocket, but took it out again in a minute, opened the end, and doubled it as large as he possibly could to satisfy the witness that there was something in it, and he told him he had got a finding. Witness asked him what it was, and he stopped near Mr

Chorley's, the Castle, in Portugal Street. He said this was not a proper place to show it; but if witness would go in, and have something to drink, he would show it to him. Accordingly he went in with him, and the prisoner Probin was there (that was the first time he had seen him). Hodges took out the pocket-book, unfolded it, produced a receipt from Mr Smith (which witness showed the Court), and read as follows :—

London, 20*th of June*, 1796.—Received of John King, Esq., the sum of three hundred and twenty pounds for one brilliant-diamond cross, by me,

William Smith.

This was upon a fourpenny stamp. Hodges held it rather under the table, read the receipt, and seemed very much alarmed and confused at finding it. Witness read it, and Hodges asked what they should do with the book and its contents; then he showed witness the cross, who thought it should be taken to this William Smith, the jeweller. Hodges confessed himself much at a loss what to do with it, as he did not approve of sending it to the jeweller; and asked witness if he had any objection to its being mentioned to that gentleman (Probin). There was no other person then in the room, and they did not appear before that to know one another. Witness consented to its being shown to him, and he was asked to give his opinion of this finding. Probin addressed himself to them with a great deal of politeness, and said: "Gentlemen, if you are in any difficulty, I will assist you"; and he asked if anybody was near, or if they were both together. They told him nobody was near. He asked who picked it up; witness told him Hodges. Probin then said he thought Hodges ought to make witness a present, as being a party concerned. Hodges agreed to that proposal, and said he would go to his banker to get change for some drafts to make him a present, for being with him when the parcel was found. He said he should not be gone above ten minutes; but Probin said: "I think you should not take

the pocket-book with you," and proposed it should be left with witness. Hodges went, and returned in about ten minutes, very hot, and said he had seen his banker, but he was obliged to go to the Exchange, and he should not see him again till four o'clock. The business was then put off till four o'clock, and a meeting was appointed at the Angel, behind St Clement's. Probin asked witness his name and where he came from, and he told him; and Hodges gave him his name and address, saying he came from Worcester, and was in the hop business. Witness forgot the name Hodges gave, but was sure it was not that of Hodges. Probin gave his name as William Jones, No. 7 Charing Cross. Probin then said Hodges ought to have the pocket-book and the valuable property in it till four o'clock. Probin then asked witness what he would leave to have the property left with him till four o'clock: he asked him if he would leave one hundred pounds as a security for his meeting them. Witness pulled out some papers he had concealed in his stocking, and took therefrom a bill for one hundred pounds; it was a bank bill on demand. Probin took it out of Hodges's hand, turned it over, and examined it; said it was pieced, but it would do very well. Witness left the note in the care of Hodges, and departed.

About five minutes after he showed the cross to a friend, and, from what he said, witness was alarmed, and went to inquire for Mr Jones, No. 7 Charing Cross, but he could find no such person; and about two or three o'clock ne gave information at Bow Street, and described the persons of the parties concerned. This event took place on Thursday, and Mr Headley saw them in custody at Bow Street on the Monday following.

Mr Lamb produced the bank-note, which the prosecutor deposed to as the same note he left with Hodges, the same number, and he also knew it by being pieced.

John Furmean, a jeweller, said there was no intrinsic value in the diamond cross. He would not give anything for it if offered to him for sale.

Mr Francis Salkeld, one of the cashiers of the bank,

swore that he gave value for the one-hundred-pound bank-note, and also to his writing on the face of it "W. Hodges, Holborn." The prisoner represented himself to be William Hodges, the witness supposed, by his writing that upon it. He gave ten ten-pound bank-notes, as appeared by the book. On looking at four bank-notes, which were found on Probin, the witness said they answered in date and number to the four in his entry.

Probin, in his defence, said that the notes which were found on him were Hodges's, who, having been intoxicated the preceding night, had given him his pocket-book to take care of. Hodges made no defence. They were both found guilty, and sentenced to be transported each for seven years.

SARAH PENELOPE STANLEY

The Female Trooper, convicted at the Old Bailey, in October Sessions, 1796, of Petty Larceny

THIS woman was born at Mercival Hall, in Warwickshire, the seat of Mr Stratford, to whom her father was steward, whose name was Brindley. She was apprenticed to a milliner at Lichfield, and married to a shoemaker. Her husband being an idle, dissolute fellow, they were reduced to very indigent circumstances. She left him to come to London. Having had a good education, and writing an excellent hand, she put on men's apparel, and for some time wrote for gentlemen in the Commons; but meeting with a recruiting sergeant at Westminster, she engaged to serve in a regiment of light horse, then being raised, called the Ayrshire Fencible Cavalry. She served upwards of a year with great credit to herself, and was promoted to the rank of corporal. She rode extremely well, and had the care of two horses; but was discovered at Carlisle to be a woman, when she was honourably discharged, after many marks of friendship shown her, not only by Major Horsley, in whose troop she rode, but by the other officers and many of the

inhabitants of Carlisle. She came to London, was much reduced, and, through mere necessity, stole the cloak for which she was tried and convicted. She acknowledged her crime, and said it was the first offence of the kind she had committed, and had meant to make satisfaction. The Court passed a light sentence upon her, and she was discharged from Newgate. The two under-sheriffs and the keeper gave her some money to provide her with a few necessaries, and she left the court, promising henceforward to seek an honest livelihood in the proper habit of her sex. She was a masculine-looking woman, of about thirty years of age.

JAMES M'KEAN

Executed for Murder, 25th of January, 1797, at Glasgow

JAMES M'KEAN kept a public-house on the highroad between Glasgow and Lanark. A carrier of the name of James Buchanan, about six o'clock one evening in winter-time, came to his house for rest and refreshment.

The landlord conducted the weary traveller to a room, then suddenly seized him and instantly cut his throat with a razor, which divided both the carotid arteries, and robbed him of his watch and a considerable sum of money. A noise having excited some surprise in his wife, she ran to the door, which was opened by M'Kean. Alarmed at the sight of some blood lying on the floor, she shrieked "Murder!"—on which her husband instantly ran off.

M'Kean was apprehended at Lamlash, in the Isle of Arran. Next morning he was conveyed to Glasgow in a post-chaise. On his arrival, about eight o'clock, the joy of the populace, at his apprehension, could not be restrained: they hailed the officers with loud acclamations, and the air resounded with huzzas when they saw him securely lodged in jail.

Buchanan's pocket-book, containing bank-notes to the amount of one hundred and eighteen pounds, his watch and several papers were found upon M'Kean. On his

examination by the magistrates, M'Kean confessed the robbery, but endeavoured to palliate the charge of murder.

This wretch was found guilty, and was executed at the Cross of Glasgow, on a newly erected gibbet. He appeared on the scaffold dressed in white.

MARTIN CLENCH AND JAMES MACKLEY

Believed to be innocent of a Charge of Murder, they were executed before Newgate, 5th of June, 1797, after the Gallows collapsed

THIS is another case wherein, it was believed, the unfortunate men died innocent of the crime alleged against them.

Sydney Fryer, Esq., a gentleman of considerable property, on Sunday, 7th of May, 1797, called, by appointment, on his cousin, Miss Ann Fryer, who resided in Shepherd Street, Oxford Street, in order to take a walk with her into the environs of London, to pay a visit to their aunt. When they had proceeded across the fields to the back part of Islington Workhouse they heard, as they thought, a female voice in distress; upon which Mr Fryer, contrary to his cousin's advice, leaped over the hedge into the field whence the voice seemed to proceed, but instead of seeing a woman he met with three men, who, upon his rashly drawing his tuck-stick (the sword of which dropped out), fired, and wounded him a little above the left eye, and he fell into a small pond. One of the villains took the watch out of his pocket and a purse from the lady, and another took her cloak. Mr Fryer died two hours after.

Several were taken up on suspicion and strictly examined in the presence of Miss Fryer, but dismissed for want of evidence. On the 27th of May the Worship Street officers apprehended Clench, Mackley and one Smith, a chip-hat maker; but no criminality appearing in the latter, he was discharged, and the other two fully committed.

The prisoners were most impartially tried by Mr Justice

Grose. They had four counsel: Messrs Const, Knapp, Alley and Gurney; so that no ingenuity was wanting to plead their case effectually to the jury. Indeed there was no positive evidence except Miss Fryer's, who swore to the identity of the two prisoners' persons.

The jury, having retired for half-an-hour, returned with a verdict of guilty.

These two men were accordingly executed, and their bodies were publicly exposed in a stable, in Little Bridge Street, near Apothecaries' Hall, Surgeons' Hall.

A short time before their caps were drawn over their eyes the platform, by some improper management, suddenly went down, with the two clergymen, the executioner and his man. The Catholic priest who attended Clench, being very lusty, suffered most, but fortunately not materially. When the two men died, most of the people were of opinion that their fate was just; but soon after the confessions of three separate criminals, who could have had no interest in taking the crime upon themselves, threw a different light upon the transaction, and recalled to mind the strong assertions which Clench and Mackley had made of their innocence; for Clench, upon retiring from the bar, returned thanks to the Court for the fairness of his trial, but observed (though in a rough way) that, though they were condemned to die, and be teased afterwards, alluding to their dissection, they were no more guilty of murder than their prosecutrix.

One Burton Wood, who was afterwards executed at Kennington Common, and another, while under sentence of death, wrote a letter to Carpenter Smith, Esq., magistrate of Surrey, declaring the innocence of Clench and Mackley, for that they were, with another not then in custody, the murderers. Soon after the third man suffered for another offence at Reading gallows, and made the same confession. His name was Timms.

REBECCA HOWARD

Executed at Norwich, 27th of August, 1797, for the Murder of her Illegitimate Child

AT the Norwich Assizes, August, 1797, Rebecca Howard was tried for and convicted of the wilful murder of her illegitimate child. Her behaviour during the trial was firm and collected; but while the jury were deliberating on the verdict she swooned away.

Previous to her execution she conducted herself with the greatest propriety. On Wednesday, at about twelve o'clock, she was conveyed from the city jail to the castle ditches, attended by the chaplain and a preacher of the Methodist society. When she arrived at the gallows, after singing a psalm with peculiar emphasis, she addressed herself to the spectators, and exhorted them to a due observance of the Sabbath, and to place all their confidence in God, if they did which, all other things would be added to them. She then sat down.

When asked if she was ready, she said: "Stop, I want to say something else." She then earnestly cautioned young folks of her own sex to avoid temptation, and to be on their guard against deceitful men, who had brought her to an ignominious death. She acknowledged the justness of her sentence, thanked the jailer for his humanity and attention, and expressed her forgiveness of all her enemies. Having taken leave of a young man and woman with an affectionate kiss, she exclaimed, "Lord, have mercy on me! God bless you all!" and was immediately launched into eternity.

After hanging the usual time her body was delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

MARIA THERESA PHIPOE

Executed before Newgate, 11th of December, 1797, for Murder

MARIA THERESA PHIPOE, known also by the name of Mary Benson, was a woman of masculine behaviour, and of a daring disposition. Two years previous to her committing the murder for which she suffered she

was convicted of forcibly taking from Mr John Cortois a promissory note of hand for two thousand pounds.

The manner in which she procured this note was as follows. Soon after Mr Cortois had sat down in her house, she, knowing that he possessed considerable property, bound him, with the assistance of another desperate female acting as her servant, to his chair with a cord, and with horrid imprecations threatened—and even attempted—to cut his throat unless he gave her his note for two thousand pounds. In a state of terror he signed the written instrument. This done, the ferocious female thought she might negotiate the note with more safety if he was killed, calling to mind Satan's proverb that "Dead men tell no tales." For this diabolical purpose she again attempted to murder him, and ordered him instantly to prepare for death, either by swallowing arsenic, by a pistol, or stabbing with a knife, which she brandished over his head. At length the terrified gentleman became desperate in his turn, and attempted to escape. Mrs Phipoe seized him, but he extricated himself, after having several of his fingers badly cut with the said knife in the struggle.

For this most atrocious offence she was indicted and tried. She was found guilty; but her counsel moved an arrest of judgment, and an argument upon a point of law. It was determined that, great as were the aggravations in committing the crime, it did not come within the statute to make it felony without benefit of clergy. She was therefore indicted for the assault, found guilty, and sentenced, on the 23rd of May, 1795, to twelve months' imprisonment in Newgate.

Mrs Phipoe was discharged at the expiration of that term, and but a very few months elapsed ere, in her rapid course of vice, she committed the murder for which she was executed.

She was indicted for that she, not having the fear of God before her eyes, but being moved by the instigation of the devil, did, in Garden Street, in the parish of St George's-in-the-East, with malice aforethought, on the body of Mary Cox, commit the foul crime of murder.

It appeared in evidence that the deceased was acquainted with the prisoner, and that she had called at her lodgings. Soon after the mistress of the house heard a scuffle and groaning, so she called two neighbours, and, going to the prisoner's door, which was locked, asked what was the matter. She replied the woman was only in a fit, but that she was getting better. She then opened the door a little, when the witness saw she was stained with blood. Two persons went for a doctor, and a third, pushing open the door, saw the deceased bleeding upon the floor. She ran downstairs, crying "Murder!"—and to her great terror was followed by the wounded woman, who laid hold of her. The deceased managed to get into the kitchen, where she was when the surgeons and beadles came. She was unable to speak, but yet made herself understood by one of the beadles that she had been thus wounded by the woman upstairs.

He went up to the prisoner, who was sitting on the bed, and said to her: "For God Almighty's sake, what have you done to the woman below?" She answered: "I don't know; I believe the devil and passion bewitched me." There was part of a finger and a case-knife lying upon the table. He said: "Is this the knife you did the woman's business with?" She answered: "Yes." "Is this your finger?" "Yes." "Did the woman below cut it off?" "Yes." But this the deceased denied, upon his afterwards questioning her about it.

The surgeon described the deceased to have received five stabs upon the throat and neck, besides several wounds in different parts of the body, and agreed with the surgeon who afterwards attended her in the hospital that those wounds were undoubtedly the cause of her death. The next day the deceased made a declaration before a magistrate, wherein she stated that she had purchased of the prisoner a gold watch and other articles, for which she paid eleven pounds, and then asked for a china coffee-cup, which stood upon the chimneypiece, into the bargain. The prisoner bade her take it; but, on doing so, she stabbed her in the neck,

and afterwards had her under her hands for more than an hour, she calling "Murder!" all the time, till at last she got her upon the bed, when she said she would kill her outright, so that she might not tell her own story.

The jury retired for twenty minutes, and returned with a verdict of guilty.

Proclamation being made in the usual form, Mr Baron Perryn immediately proceeded to pass sentence: that she should be executed on the Monday following, and her body afterwards dissected and anatomised, according to the statute. She left a guinea for the most deserving debtor in the jail, and gave the same sum to the executioner.

After hanging an hour in view of a great number of spectators, one-third of whom were females, the body was cut down and publicly exhibited in a place built for the purpose in the Old Bailey.

ROBERT LADBROKE TROYT

A Boy of Seventeen, executed before Newgate, 28th of November, 1798, for Forgery, his First Offence

ALTHOUGH only seventeen years old, Robert Ladbroke Troyt was found guilty, at the Old Bailey, of having feloniously forged, and published as true, knowing it to be forged, a certain draft, dated the 20th of August, for the sum of seventy-five pounds, payable to Sir William Blackstone, purporting to be the draft of Messrs Devaynes, Dawes, Noble & Co.

On his trial this miserable boy was gaily dressed, and appeared to have no sense of the awful situation in which he stood, behaving with much unconcern; but at the place of execution he was a lamentable spectacle. He screamed in horror at the first sight of the apparatus of death, and during the short time allowed upon the scaffold for devotion he was in the greatest agony of mind.

He suffered for his first offence. He had been for a short time clerk to a gentleman of eminence in the profession of

the law, courted the company of his elders, and tasted the dissipation (which they call the pleasures) of London. To support such an evil course he committed the fatal deed which so soon put a stop to his career.

JAMES TURNBULL

A Private Soldier, executed before Newgate, 15th of May, 1799, for robbing the Mint

IN the reign of King Charles II. Colonel Blood forcibly stole the crown from the Tower of London, and had proceeded almost out of detection before the valuable gem was recovered.

James Turnbull, with equal desperate resolution, robbed the National Mint in the same fortress. At the Old Bailey, 25th of February, Turnbull was tried for robbing the Mint. It appeared in evidence that the prisoner (a private soldier in the 3rd Regiment of Guards) was employed, on the 20th of December previous, with orders for the military quartered at the Tower, to work the die in the coinage of guineas. At nine o'clock he pretended to go with the other men to his breakfast, but returned in a minute or two with a comrade named Dalton. The latter stood at the door while Turnbull went and clapped a pistol to the head of one Finch, an apprentice, who was left in care of the coining-room—together with a Mr Chambers—and demanded the key of the chest where the finished guineas were deposited. Mr Chambers came up to interfere, when the prisoner levelled the pistol at his forehead, and pushed him into a passage leading to another room, in which he locked both him and Finch. He then opened the chest and took out four bags, containing two thousand, three hundred and eighty guineas, and escaped with them before an alarm could be made. For a fortnight he eluded all search and pursuit, but was apprehended on the 5th of January, at Dover, endeavouring to hire a boat to carry him into France. The foregoing circumstances being fully substantiated by evidence, he acknowledged

himself to be guilty of the said robbery, when called on to make his defence, and the jury instantly found him guilty. His counsel urged a point of law in arrest of judgment, which the Court deemed not of the least force, and he accordingly received sentence of death. He instantly replied: "I have now heard my sentence, and I thank God for it."

He was tried and convicted on the 25th of February, but was not executed until the 15th of May.

MARGARET HUGHES

Executed at Canterbury, 24th of July, 1799, for murdering her Husband

AT the General Sessions for the city of Canterbury this woman was convicted of poisoning her husband, Thomas Hughes.

Her case was, however, referred to the opinion of the twelve judges, but she was brought to the bar soon after, and informed that the Court had awarded her former sentence, and that in consequence her execution must take place the Wednesday following.

She was accordingly brought a few minutes before one o'clock from West Gate, Canterbury, to a room in the jailer's house, whence she was conducted by a gallery to the temporary gallows, erected upon a platform, about ten feet from the ground, on the north side of the Gate, and executed, according to her sentence.

She received the Sacrament, and joined in the devotions with the utmost fervency. The lever was then touched, and instantly part of the platform under her feet dropped, by which she descended six or eight inches.

After remaining suspended an hour, the body was taken down, and at night delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

JAMES BRODIE

A Blind Man, who was executed in 1800 *for the Murder of his Boy Guide*

JAMES BRODIE, a blind man, was indicted at the assizes for the county of Nottingham for the murder of a boy, named Robert Selby Hancock, who acted as his guide, on the 24th of March, 1800.

John Robinson, a warrener, said he went into his warren on Sunday, the 24th of March, 1800, about two o'clock in the afternoon. He saw the prisoner, as he supposed, fishing in a rivulet. On approaching him he found him lying on his belly, upon which he called out: "Hullo! What are you doing?" The prisoner said he was a blind man, and had been wandering about all night, for he had lost his guide, who was dead; that he had stayed by him till he had taken his last gasp. The warrener went with two men to seek the boy, and they found him about three miles from the place where the blind man was, covered all over with ling, or fern, as much as would fill a cart. The skull was found fractured in two places, the head covered with blood and torn at the ear, and the shoulders and arms beaten to a jelly.

The blind man had a stick, with which it was supposed he committed the murder.

The prisoner, in his defence, said they had lost their way, and that the boy had got up into a tree, with his assistance, to see if there was any road near; that the boy fell from the tree and hurt himself very much; that just before he had tumbled over a log of wood; that, finding the boy was hurt, and could not stand, he covered him over with ling, in order to keep him from the cold; and that he stayed by him till he was dead.

Not one word of this defence was admitted by the jury, who instantly found him guilty, and execution, in the short time allowed to murderers, followed, at which time this culprit of darkness was but twenty-three years of age.

RICHARD FERGUSON

"Galloping Dick," convicted at the Lent Assizes, 1800, at Aylesbury, and executed for a Highway Robbery

THIS daring highwayman, for his bold riding when pursued, obtained the name of "Galloping Dick." He was born at a village in Herefordshire. His father was a gentleman's servant, and was frequently in London, Bath, and other places, with his master; consequently he could not bestow that strict attention to the education and morals of his son which his own conduct gave every proof he would otherwise have done.

Young Dick gave very early proofs of that daring wicked disposition which afterwards rendered him so infamously noted. If any mischievous project was set on foot among his companions young Dick was sure to be their leader, and promoted it as far as lay in his power.

Dick's father, finding him, when fifteen years of age, make little progress in learning, and given to such mischievous pranks, resolved to employ him under his own eye. The coachman being at this time in want of a stable-boy, young Dick was taken to fill up the vacancy. He took great delight in his new employment, and, being a smart and active youth, was taken much notice of in the family. As he paid particular attention to the horses, he soon made astonishing progress in the management of them.

About a year afterwards young Dick came to London with the family. During their stay in town the postilion was taken ill, and Dick was appointed to supply his place till he recovered, which was not very long.

Dick was now stripped of his fine livery, and sent back to his station as a stable-boy. This his haughty spirit could not brook. Fond of dress, and being thought a man of consequence, he resolved to look out for another place. Accordingly he told his father his resolution, and asked his advice. His father, knowing he was well qualified, in respect to the

management of horses, told him he would look out one for him.

A circumstance happened that very afternoon which highly gratified our hero's pride. A lady who frequently visited the family, being in want of a postilion, asked Dick's master what had become of his late postilion. Being informed he was in his stable, and was very fit for her employ, he was sent for, and hired.

Dick was now completely his own master, and for some time behaved to the satisfaction of his mistress. He was a great favourite in the family, particularly among the female part. He was now in his twentieth year, and though not what may be termed handsome, there was certainly something very agreeable, if not captivating, in his person. For some time he lived happily in this family, until his mistress discovered him in an improper situation with one of her female servants, when she immediately discharged him. Nor could any intercession afterwards prevail upon her to reinstate him.

He soon afterwards got another place, in which he did not long remain. He had at this time got connected with some other servants of a loose character and, their manner of drinking, gaming and idleness suiting his disposition, he soon became one of them. After losing several good places, by negligence, he applied to a livery-stable in Piccadilly, and obtained employment.

Dick's father now died, and left him the sum of fifty-seven pounds, which he had saved during the time he lived in the family. With this sum Dick started as a gentleman. He left his place, bought mourning, frequented the theatres, etc. One evening, at Drury Lane, he got seated beside a female who particularly engaged his attention. He took her to be a modest lady, and was very much chagrined when she readily granted his request to conduct her home. He resolved to leave her, but found his resolution fail him ; and at the end of the play he conducted her home to her residence in St George's Fields, and stayed with her the whole night.

Next morning, after making her a handsome present, he

took his leave, with a promise of soon repeating his visit. He went home, but this artful courtesan had so completely enamoured him that he could not rest many hours without paying her another visit, and but for the accidental visit of some companions he would have returned immediately. With them he reluctantly spent the day, and in the evening flew again on the impatient wings of desire to his dear Nancy.

She thought him to be a person of considerable property, from the specimen she had of his generosity, and received him with every mark of endearment in her power. Indeed she was as complete a mistress of the art of wheedling as perhaps any female of the present day. At the time Richard Ferguson became acquainted with her she was the first favourite of several noted highwaymen and housebreakers, who, in turn, all had their favoured hours. While they could supply cash to indulge her in every species of luxury and extravagance she would artfully declare no other man on earth shared her affections with them ; but when their money was once expended, cold treatment, or perhaps worse, compelled them to hazard their lives for the purpose of again enjoying those favours which any reasonable thinking man would have spurned.

Unfortunately for himself, Ferguson became as complete a dupe as ever she had ensnared. What money he possessed, what he could obtain by borrowing or otherwise, was all lavished on this insatiable female, and he was, after all, in danger of being discarded. Not able to bear the thought of entirely parting with his dear Nancy, he went to an inn in Piccadilly, offered himself as a postilion, and was accepted. Whenever he could obtain a little money he fled with impatience to his fair Dulcinea and squandered it away in the same thoughtless manner.

As he drove post-chaises on the different roads round the metropolis he frequently saw his rivals on the road gaily mounted and dressed. One day, while driving a gentleman on the North Road, the chaise was stopped by the noted Abershaw and another, with crepe over their faces. Abershaw stood by the driver till the other went up to the chaise and

robbed the gentleman. The wind being very high blew the crepe off his face, and gave Ferguson a full view of him. They stared at each other, but, before a word could pass, some company came up, and the two highwaymen galloped off.

At this period Ferguson was under the frowns of his mistress, for want of money. He and Abershaw knew each other perfectly, having often met together at Nancy's. Abershaw was very uneasy at the discovery, which he communicated to his companion. A consultation was immediately held, and they resolved to wait at an inn on the road for the return of Ferguson, and bribe him, to prevent a discovery. They accordingly went to the inn, and when Ferguson came back, and stopped to water his horses, the waiter was ordered to send him in. After some conversation Dick accepted the present offered him, and agreed to meet them that night, to partake of a good supper.

With this fresh supply of cash he fled to his Nancy. But she was otherwise engaged, and did not expect him so soon to possess sufficient for her notice (being now acquainted with his situation in life), so she absolutely refused to admit him and shut the door in his face. Mad with the reception he had met with, he quitted the house, and resolved never to visit her more; which he strictly adhered to.

Nettled to the soul, he was proceeding homewards when he met the highwayman who accompanied Abershaw, and went with him to the place of rendezvous in the Borough, where he was received by those assembled with every mark of attention. They supped sumptuously, drank wine, and spent the time in noisy mirth. This exactly suited Ferguson: he joined in their mirth, and, when sufficiently elevated, very eagerly closed with a proposition to become one of their number. He was, according to their forms, immediately initiated.

When the plan of their next depredations on the public was settled, Ferguson was not immediately called into action, as it was suggested by one of the members that he could be better employed in giving information, at their rendezvous, of the departure of gentlemen from the inn

where he lived, etc., whereby those who were most likely to afford a proper booty might be waylaid and robbed. This diabolical plan he followed successfully for some time, taking care to learn from the drivers the time post-chaises were ordered from other inns, etc. He shared, very often, considerable sums, which he quickly squandered away in gambling, drunkenness and debauchery.

At length he lost his place, and consequently his knowledge respecting travellers became confined, and he was obliged himself to go on the road. As a highwayman he was remarkably successful. Of a daring disposition, he defied danger, and, from his skill in horses, took care to provide himself with a good one, whereby he could effect his escape. He and two others stopped two gentlemen on the Edgware Road, and robbed them; soon after, other three gentlemen came up, who pursued them, and Ferguson's two companions were taken, tried and executed. When his associates complimented him on his escape he triumphantly asserted that he would gallop a horse with any man in the kingdom.

He now indulged himself in every excess; his amours were very numerous, particularly among those married women whom he could, by presents or otherwise, induce to listen to his brutal desires. He prevailed upon the wives of two publicans in the Borough to elope with him, and carried on several private intrigues with others.

At one of the last places in which he lived he was frequently employed to drive post-chaises between Hounslow and London, and notwithstanding he drove close by his old companion, Abershaw, where he hung in irons, it had no effect in altering his morals. To follow him through the various exploits in which he was afterwards engaged would require volumes to enumerate. He was at length apprehended, and taken to Bow Street; thence conveyed to Aylesbury, Bucks, and there tried and convicted of a highway robbery in that county.

When he found himself left for execution he seriously prepared for his approaching end; and when he came to the

fatal tree he met his awful fate with a becoming resolution, inspired by the firm hopes of the pardon of all his transgressions, through the merits of his blessed Redeemer.

Galloping Dick took a hasty road to perdition. Happy had it been for him had he chosen the safe path of virtue, and run a good race.

SARAH LLOYD

Convicted of Larceny in April, 1800, and executed in spite of Extraordinary Efforts to get her reprieved

THIS unfortunate woman was accused of having introduced into the house of her mistress a man, who robbed and afterwards set it on fire. Her case occupied much attention. She was generally considered as the instrument made use of by a designing villain, and having a most excellent character the affair excited a very strong interest. Being convicted of larceny only, to the value of forty shillings, at Bury Assizes, April, 1800, and condemned, she was left for execution. A petition was immediately signed, most respectably and numerously, for her respite and pardon; but the Duke of Portland, deeming the application to arise from ill-judged humanity, sent down a King's Messenger to order her execution. Among the persons who interested themselves on this occasion was Mr Capel Lofft, who addressed the following letter to the editor of *The Monthly Magazine*, setting forth her case, and proving her an object of mercy:—

SIR,—Give me leave to caution you against an implicit credit in the accounts published in most of the public papers respecting the case of the unhappy Sarah Lloyd. Thus much only I will say at present—a most extraordinary and most affecting case it is. I have never heard of one more so; I have never known one in any degree so much so. I was on the Grand Jury which found the two bills of indictment. I was in court at the trial. I am happy, yet perhaps I ought not to say so, that I was not in court when sentence of

death was pronounced upon her. I have visited her several times since she has been in prison, with several respectable persons, and particularly with a lady of very superior understanding, who, struck with her mild and ingenious countenance, the modesty, unhesitating clearness, simplicity and ingenuous character of all she says, her meek and constant fortitude and her modest resignation, has interested herself greatly in behalf of this young and most singularly unhappy woman. She was indicted for a burglarious robbery in the dwelling-house of her mistress. She was convicted of larceny alone, to the value of forty shillings, and under what circumstances, it will be proper to state more fully hereafter. The jury acquitted her of the burglarious part of the charge, and thereby negatived any previous knowledge on her part of a felonious intent of any person. The other indictment, for malicious house-firing, was not even tried. Unhappily, perhaps, for her that it was not. It seems but too certain that she will suffer death on Wednesday next; and from anything that I can yet learn, I should fear a numerously and respectably signed petition will not find its way to the King while she yet lives. I write only thus much at present; that if you state the supposed facts which have been so widely diffused against her, and have made so dreadful an impression, you may also state these remarks, which have for their object merely that the public would suspend their judgment till a full and correct statement be laid before them, as it necessarily must; and that, in the meantime, at least, the public will not conclude her guilty of more than that of which she solely stands convicted and attainted on the record—the larceny only. And as to the nature and degree of her guilt, even upon that they will estimate it according to the circumstances, when fully before them. Then perhaps they will have no cause to wonder that efforts have been made, as they have certainly been, with most persevering anxiety, to obtain a mitigation of her sentence, so far as it affects her life; nor that the prosecutrix, the committing magistrate, the foreman and several others of the grand jury, and many persons of true respectability,

have concurred in these efforts, and, particularly, persons in whose service she had lived, and who speak of her temper, disposition, character and conduct in terms every way honourable. I remain, etc.,

CAPEL LOFFT.

TROSTON, *April* 21.

In another letter this gentleman gives an account of her person, execution, etc., as follows :—

"Respecting the case of Sarah Lloyd, what ought now further to be said, I wish that I felt myself capable of saying as it deserves. I have reason to think that she was not quite nineteen. She was rather low of stature, of a pale complexion, to which anxiety and near seven months' imprisonment had given a yellowish tint. Naturally she appears to have been fair, as when she coloured, the colour naturally diffused itself. Her countenance was very pleasing, of a meek and modest expression, perfectly characteristic of a mild and affectionate temper. She had large eyes and eyelids, a short and well-formed nose, an open forehead, of a grand and ingenuous character, and very regular and pleasing features; her hair darkish brown, and her eyebrows rather darker than her hair: she had an uncommon and unaffected sweetness in her voice and manner. She seemed to be above impatience or discontent, fear or ostentation, exempt from selfish emotion, but attentive with pure sympathy to those whom her state, and the affecting singularity of her case, and her uniformly admirable behaviour, interested in her behalf.

"When asked (23rd of April, 1800, the morning on which she suffered) how she had slept the preceding night, she said: 'Not well the beginning, but quite well the latter part of the night.' She took an affectionate, but composed and even cheerful, leave of her fellow-prisoners, and rather gave them comfort than needed to receive it. It was a rainy and windy morning. She accepted of, and held over her head, an umbrella, which I brought with me, and without assistance, though her arms were confined, and steadily

supported it all the way from the prison, not much less than a mile. What I said at the place of execution, if it had been far better said than I was then able to express myself under the distress I felt, would have been little in comparison of the effect of her appearance and behaviour on the whole assembly. That effect, none, who were not present, can imagine. Before this, I never attended an execution; but indeed it was a duty to attend this, and to give the last testimony of esteem to a young person whose behaviour after her sentence (I had not seen her before, for in court she was concealed from me by the surrounding crowd) had rendered her so deserving of every possible attention. Those who have been accustomed to such distressing observations remarked that the executioner, though used to his dreadful office, appeared exceedingly embarrassed, and was uncommonly slow in those preparations which immediately precede the fatal moment, and which, in such a kind of death, are a severe trial to the fortitude of the strongest and most exalted mind, and much the more so as they tend to destroy the sympathy resulting from the associated ideas of dignity in suffering; yet she dignified, by her deportment, every humiliating circumstance of this otherwise most degrading of deaths, and maintained an unaltered equanimity and recollectedness, herself assisting in putting back her hair and adjusting the instrument of death to her neck.

"There was no platform, nor anything in a common degree suitable to supply the want of one; yet this very young and wholly uneducated woman, naturally of a very tender disposition, and, from her mild and amiable temper, accustomed to be treated as their child in the families in which she had lived, and who consequently had not learned fortitude from experience either of danger or hardship, and in prison the humanity of Mr Orridge had been parental towards her, appeared with a serenity that seemed more than human; and when she gave the signal, there was a recollected gracefulness and sublimity in her manner that struck every heart, and is above words or idea. I was so very near to her the whole time that, near-sighted as I am,

I can fully depend on the certainty of my information. After she had been suspended more than a minute, her hands were twice evenly and gently raised, and gradually let to fall without the least appearance of convulsive or involuntary motion, in a manner which could hardly be mistaken, when interpreted, as designed to signify content and resignation. At all events, independently of this circumstance, which was noticed by many, her whole conduct evidently showed, from this temper of mind, a composed, and even cheerful submission to the views and will of heaven; a most unaffected submission entirely becoming her age, sex and situation."

Such, however, were the exaggerations of the London journals, which ascribed to this woman all the crime, that it need not be wondered that no attention was paid to the petition. The following is an extract of one (*Times*, 11th of April), by which the reader will see quite a different representation from the above:—

"The circumstances attending the case of Sarah Lloyd are perhaps unequalled for the atrocious intentions of the perpetrator, who was a servant to a very respectable lady, residing at Hadleigh, named Syer. On the 3rd of October last she set her mistress's house on fire in four different places, and robbed her of some considerable property. Her intention was the destruction of her protectress, for, to prevent the escape of her mistress, the principal combustibles were placed under a staircase which led to her mistress's bedroom, and, but for the timely assistance of the neighbourhood, she would have perished in the fire."

The incendiarism and intended murder, here asserted as facts of her deep ingratitude and base depravity, were neither tried nor proved; and of the burglary she was acquitted; which acquittal must also acquit her of the other charges.

JAMES HADFIELD

Tried for shooting at his Majesty George III. at Drury Lane Theatre, on Thursday, 15th of May, 1800

THE trial of James Hadfield, for high treason, came on in the Court of King's Bench on Thursday, the 26th of June. The indictment being read, the prisoner pleaded "Not guilty," and the Attorney-General addressed the jury at considerable length.

Mr Joseph Craig was the first witness examined. He was a musician, and saw Hadfield at Drury Lane Theatre, with a pistol in his hand, pointing it at his Majesty. It was instantly fired and dropped. He helped to drag the prisoner over the rails, into the music-room. Mr Sheridan and the Duke of York came in. Prisoner said: "God bless your Royal Highness, I like you very well; you are a good fellow. This is not the worst that is brewing."

Mr Wright, another witness, was in the first row next the orchestra. He heard the report of a pistol as his Majesty entered his box, turned round, and caught the prisoner by the collar. A young lady, who sat behind, immediately pointed to the ground, where he saw and picked up the pistol, which he produced in court.

Mr Law, one of the counsel for the prosecution, here desired that his Royal Highness the Duke of York might be called; upon which the prisoner, in a paroxysm of enthusiasm, cried out: "God bless the Duke, I love him!" The Court, seeing his agitation, immediately gave directions that he should be permitted to sit down; and Mr Kirby, the keeper of Newgate (who all the time sat next him), told him he had the permission of the Court to sit down, which he did, and remained composed during the remainder of the trial.

The Duke of York said he knew the prisoner, who had been one of his orderly men. The prisoner said he knew his own life was forfeited; he regretted the fate of his wife only: he would be only two days longer from his

wife; the worst was not come yet. His Royal Highness said the prisoner appeared to be perfectly collected. After his Majesty had retired, his Royal Highness directed a search to be made in the King's box, where a hole was discovered, evidently made by the impression of a shot, fourteen inches from his Majesty's head. It had perforated the pillar. In searching below, some slugs were found; they had been recently fired off. Mr Erskine asked his Royal Highness if the most loyal and brave men were not usually selected to be the orderly men. His Royal Highness answered that the most tried and trusty men were appointed as orderly men. When the prisoner was asked what could have induced him to commit so atrocious an act, he said he was tired of life, and thought he should have been killed.

The evidence for the prosecution was then closed, and Mr Erskine addressed the jury at considerable length.

Major Ryan, of the 15th Light Dragoons, in which the prisoner was a private; Hercules M'Gill, private in the same regiment, and John Lane, of the Guards, all knew the prisoner, and deposed to different acts of his insanity.

Mr Cline, surgeon; Dr Crichton, physician, and Dr Letherne, surgeon to the 15th Regiment, as professional gentlemen gave testimony to their belief of the prisoner's insanity.

Captain Wilson and Chris. Lawton, of the 15th Light Dragoons; David Hadfield, brother to the prisoner; Mary Gore, sister-in-law to the prisoner; Catharine Harrison and Elizabeth Roberts detailed different acts of insanity, particularly on the day previous to and on which he committed the crime for which he stood indicted.

The prisoner was found to be insane.

Note.—Ravaillac, who stabbed King Henry IV. of France while in his coach and surrounded by his guards, was tortured to death in the following manner:—

At the place of execution his right hand, with which he gave the fatal blow, was put into a furnace flaming with fire and brimstone, and there

THOMAS CHALFONT

A Post-Office Sorter, executed before Newgate, 11th of November, 1800, for stealing a Bank-Note out of a Letter

THOMAS CHALFONT, aged seventeen, was indicted upon the capital charge, for that he, being a person employed in business relating to the Post Office, did feloniously steal out of a certain letter, containing three bills, a Banbury bank-bill, of the value of ten pounds, the property of Bernard Bedwell, John Yates, Bernard Bedwell, junior, and Philip Bedwell. This letter, instead of arriving on the 18th, in due course, was not received until the 19th, and then contained but two bills, the words "three" in the letter being altered to "two" and the "thirty" to "twenty."

The bill in the indictment (the one missing) was found to have been honoured at a banker's, for which a Bank of England note for ten pounds was given; and this individual note was proved to have passed through the hands of the prisoner, who wrote his own name upon the back of it, after several other endorsements, and paid it to the clerk of the Receiver-General of the Post Office.

The jury withdrew for nearly an hour, and on their return pronounced him guilty. He was executed.

About a year before he suffered, a letter-carrier, named John Williams, was executed at the same fatal place for stealing a Salisbury bank-note out of a letter entrusted to his charge; and yet this proved no warning to Chalfont.

consumed. His flesh was pulled from his bones with red-hot pincers; boiling oil, resin and brimstone were poured upon the wounds, and melted lead upon his navel. To close the scene of horror, four horses were fastened to the four quarters of his body, which were torn asunder.

His parents were banished their country, never more to return, on pain of immediate death; and his whole kindred, nay, all individuals bearing the name, were ordered to renounce it, so that the name of Ravaillac should never more be heard of in France.

JAMES RILEY AND ROBERT NUTTS

Executed before Newgate, 24th of June, 1801, for Highway Robbery

THESE men were capitally indicted for assaulting and taking from the person of Andrew Dennis O'Kelly, Esq.,[1] on the king's highway, on the 3rd of December, at Hayes, near Uxbridge, three seven-shilling pieces, one half-guinea, one half-crown and several shillings.

The prosecutor swore that about eight o'clock on the evening of the 3rd of December, as he was going in a post-chaise to West Wycombe, he was stopped, about a mile on this side of Uxbridge, by three footpads. The prisoner Nutts stood at the horses' heads, while the other prisoner, Riley, opened the chaise door and demanded his money; he gave him all the loose cash he had in his pocket, as stated in the indictment. They then demanded his pocket-book and watch; he assured them he had none. The prisoner Nutts then came to the other side and searched him, and took from him some loose paper, which they afterwards returned. The third footpad, who was not taken, felt in his breeches pocket, and took from him fifty pounds in bank-notes and a bundle of linen that lay upon the seat of the chaise. They then made off. He proceeded to the next public-house, in order to get assistance, but could not procure any, nor at Uxbridge. As he was going on to West Wycombe, when he was about a mile from Uxbridge, he was overtaken by a person on horseback, who informed him that two of the men had been taken. He swore particularly to one of the shillings, from a certain mark upon it.

1 This gentlemen was the nephew and heir of the once famous Colonel, ironically styled Count Dennis O'Kelly, the fortunate owner of Eclipse, the best racer of the English turf. The Count, from a mean origin, was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the Westminster Regiment of Middlesex Militia, and at the time of the riots in London, in the year 1780, manœuvered the regiment, as Major, before the King, in review, in St James's Park. The nephew succeeded also to the lieutenant-colonelcy, but was soon dismissed the service, by the sentence of a general court martial.

Nibbs, the constable of Hayes, was walking on the footpath when Colonel O'Kelly passed by in the chaise. Seeing some men on the road make up to the chaise, and suspecting they intended to rob the person inside when the carriage was stopped, he went on to the Adam and Eve and got assistance, and he and four other persons pursued them into a field, and secured the two prisoners, but not till they had made a desperate resistance; they fired two pistols, both of which, fortunately, flashed in the pan.

These desperadoes were convicted in January Sessions, but, owing to the King's indisposition, were, with forty more condemned culprits, reserved until the 24th of June, when they suffered along with James M'Intosh and James Wooldridge, for forgery; and Joseph Roberts and William Cross, for highway robbery.

JOSEPH WALL, Esq.

Formerly Governor of Goree. Executed 28th of January, 1802, nearly Twenty Years after committing the Crime, for ordering a Soldier to be flogged to Death

MR WALL was descended from a good family in Ireland, and entered the army at an early age. He was of a severe and rather unaccommodating temper; nor was he much liked among the officers.

Mr Wall was Lieutenant-Governor of Senegambia, but acted as chief, the first appointment being vacant. It was an office he held but a short time—not more than two years—during which he was accused of the wilful murder of Benjamin Armstrong, by ordering him to receive eight hundred lashes, on the 10th of July, 1782, of which he died five days afterwards. His emoluments were very considerable, as, besides his military appointments, he was Superintendent of Trade to the colony.

His family were originally Roman Catholics; but of course he conformed to the Protestant Church, or he could not have held his commission.

As soon as the account of the murder reached the Board of Admiralty a reward was offered for his apprehension; but having evaded justice, in 1784, he lived on the Continent, sometimes in France, sometimes in Italy—but mostly in France—under an assumed name, where he lived respectably, and was admitted into good company.

He particularly kept company with the officers of his own country who served in the French army, and was well known at the Scottish and Irish Colleges in Paris.

In 1797 he returned to this country, as if by a kind of fatality. He was frequently advised, by the friend who procured him the lodging, to leave the country again, and also questioned as to his motive for remaining. He never attempted, however, to give any, but appeared, even at the time when he was so studiously concealing himself, to have a distant intention of making a surrender in order to take his trial. It is very evident his mind was not at ease, and that he was incapable of making any firm resolution either one way or another. And even the manner in which he did give himself up showed a singular want of determination, leaving it to chance whether the Minister should send for him or not; for, rather than go to deliver himself up, he wrote to say he was ready to do so. He was allied, by marriage, to a noble family, and his wife visited him frequently when in his concealment at Lambeth. Since that time he had lived in Upper Thornhaugh Street, Bedford Square, where he was apprehended. It is most probable that had he not written to the Secretary of State the matter had been so long forgotten that he would never have been in any way molested.

At the trial it was proved by witnesses that Armstrong was far from being undutiful in his behaviour. He was, however, tied to a gun-carriage, and black men, brought there for the purpose—not the drummers, who in the ordinary course of things would have had to flog this man, supposing him to have deserved flogging—were ordered to inflict on him the punishment ordered. Each took his turn and gave this unhappy sufferer twenty-five lashes until he had received the number of eight hundred; and the instrument

with which the punishment was inflicted was not a cat-o'-nine-tails, which is the usual instrument, but a piece of rope of greater thickness, and which was much more severe than the cat-o'-nine-tails. The rope was exhibited in evidence. While this punishment was being inflicted the prisoner urged the black men to be severe. He said, among other things: "Cut him to the heart and to the liver." Armstrong applied to him for mercy, but the observation of the defendant on this occasion was that the sick season was coming on, which, together with the punishment, would do for him. After receiving a great number of lashes—that is, eight hundred—this poor creature was conducted to the hospital. He was in a condition in which it was probable his death might be the consequence. He declared, in his dying moments, he was punished without any trial, and without ever being so much as asked whether he had anything to say in his defence.

The prisoner in his defence urged that the deceased was guilty of mutiny, that the punishment was not so severe as reported, but that the deceased was suffered to drink strong spirits when in the hospital.

The jury, after being out of court some time, pronounced a verdict of guilty.

The recorder then proceeded to pass sentence of death upon him: that he be executed the following morning, and that his body be afterwards delivered to be anatomised, according to the statute.

Mr Wall seemed sensibly affected by the sentence, but he said nothing, merely requesting the Court would allow him a little time to prepare himself for death.

On the 21st of January a respite was sent from Lord Pelham's office, deferring his execution until the 25th. On the 24th he was further respited till the 28th. During the time of his confinement, previous to trial, he occupied the apartment which was formerly the residence of Mr Ridgway, the bookseller. His wife lived with him for the last fortnight. Although he was allowed two hours a day—from twelve to two—to walk in the yard, he did not once

embrace this indulgence; and during his whole confinement he never went out of his room, except into the lobby to consult his counsel.

He lived well, and was at times very facetious, easy in his manners, and pleasant in conversation; but during the night he frequently sat up in his bed and sang psalms, which were overheard by his fellow-prisoner. He had not many visitors. His only attendant was a prisoner, who was appointed for that purpose by the turnkey.

After trial he did not return to his old apartment, but was conducted to a cell. He was so far favoured as not to have irons put on, but a person was employed as a guard to watch him during the night to prevent him doing violence to himself. His bed was brought to him in the cell, on which he threw himself in an agony of mind, saying it was his intention not to rise until they called him on the fatal morning. The sheriffs were particularly pointed and precise in their orders with respect to confining him to the usual diet of bread and water preparatory to the awful event. This order was scrupulously fulfilled. The prisoner, during a part of the night, slept, owing to fatigue and perturbation of mind.

He had an affecting interview with his wife, the Hon. Mrs Wall, the night before his execution, from whom he was painfully separated about eleven o'clock. Numberless tender embraces took place. The loving wife reluctantly departed, overwhelmed with grief, and bathed in tears, while the unfortunate husband declared that he could now, with Christian fortitude, submit to his unhappy fate. In the morning one of the officers proceeded to bind his arms with a cord, for which he extended them firmly; but recollecting himself he said: "I beg your pardon a moment"; and putting his hand in his pocket he drew out two white handkerchiefs, one of which he bound over his temples, so as nearly to conceal his eyes, over which he placed a white cap, and then put on a round hat; the other handkerchief he kept between his hands. He then observed: "The cord cuts me; but it's no matter." On which Dr Ford desired it to be loosened, for which the prisoner bowed, and thanked him.

As the clock struck eight the door was thrown open, at which Sheriff Cox and his officers appeared. The Governor, approaching him, said: "I attend you, sir"; and the procession to the scaffold, over the debtors' door, immediately succeeded. Without waiting for any signal the platform dropped, and he was launched into eternity. From the knot of the rope turning round to the back of the neck, and his legs not being pulled, at his particular request, he was suspended in convulsive agony for more than a quarter of an hour.

After hanging an hour his body was cut down, put into a cart, and immediately conveyed to a building in Cowcross Street, to be dissected. His remains were interred in the churchyard of St Pancras.

HENRY COCK

Executed before Newgate, 23rd of June, 1802, for Forgery, whereby he swindled his Benefactor's Estate

WILLIAM STOREY, Esq., who rented the Parsonage House at Chatham, was rich, and, having no children, adopted Henry Cock as a son. The return made for this protection was the commission of forgery, in order to rob his benefactor. Cock's fate is still less deserving of commiseration when we find that he had received every advantage from education, possessed a considerable knowledge (for his early years) of mankind, and was in the profession of the law, as an attorney, at Brewers Hall.

At the early age of twenty-six he was indicted for feloniously forging, on the 20th of April, 1802, three papers, purporting to be letters of attorney of William Storey, of Chatham, in the county of Kent, Esquire, to transfer several sums of money in the stocks of the Bank of England, and for uttering and making use of the same, knowing them to be forged.

His trial came on at the Old Bailey, before Lord Ellenborough, on the 1st of May, 1802, and occupied the greater part of that day.

It appeared that the prisoner was a near relation to Mr

Storey, and had received his dividends for him, as they became due. Mr Storey died on the 14th of August, 1801, leaving, as he thought, considerable sums in the three and four per cents. and seven thousand pounds in the five; memoranda to that effect having been found by his executors among his papers.

When several persons to whom he had left different sums pressed for their legacies, Mr Jefferies, the acting executor, drew up a kind of plan for discharging them, in which he appropriated the sums in the different funds for the payment of particular legacies, setting down seven thousand pounds as in the five per cents. among the rest. Towards the end of November this paper was shown to, and copied by, the prisoner, who was consulted by, and acted in town for, the executor; which copy was produced in court.

So far from informing Mr Jefferies at that time of there being no property in the five per cents. to answer the legacies he had set down against the seven thousand pounds, the prisoner sent two or three letters to persuade him not to sell it out till after Christmas, that they might have the benefit of the dividend. This was acceded to by the executors, who, having left it beyond the time for that purpose, were at length determined to fulfil the provisions of the will; but on applying at the bank they found, to their great astonishment, that the whole of the seven thousand pounds in the five per cents. had been sold out at different periods—the last in the month of August, 1801—by the prisoner, under the pretended authority of a warrant of Mr Storey.

This warrant was produced; and Mr Jefferies swore, to the best of his belief, the signature was not the handwriting of his deceased friend.

To prove that the prisoner had made use of this paper, and had actually by that means obtained the money, the transfer-books were produced, and the several clerks of the bank were called to prove the identity of his person.

Mr Justice Mainwaring, Mr Alderman Price, and several other persons in an equally respectable line of life, spoke for the prisoner's good character. The jury, however, considered

the fact as sufficiently proved to warrant their pronouncing a verdict of guilty.

He was dressed in mourning on the day of execution; and underwent his dreadful fate in penitence, and with fortitude.

WILLIAM CODLIN

Executed 27th of November, 1802, for scuttling a Ship, of which he was Captain

CODLIN was a native of Scarborough, and allowed to be an excellent seaman in the north coast trade. He was captain of the brig *Adventure*, nominally bound to Gibraltar and Leghorn, and was indicted at the Old Bailey for feloniously boring three holes in her bottom with a view to defraud the underwriters, on the 8th of August, 1802, off Brighton. Codlin and Read were charged, as officers of the ship, for committing the fact; and Macfarlane and Easterby, as owners, for procuring it to be committed.

The trial came on at the sessions-house at the Old Bailey, on Tuesday, 26th of October, 1802, before Sir William Scott, Lord Ellenborough and Baron Thompson. It commenced at nine o'clock in the morning, and did not conclude till twelve at night.

The first witness was T. Cooper, who said he was a seaman on board the *Adventure*, originally before the mast; he was shipped in the river, the vessel then lying below Limehouse. Codlin was captain and Douglas was mate. The rest of the crew consisted of two boys, making five in all. Storrow came back and forward. There was part of the cargo on board, and the vessel sailed from Limehouse for Yarmouth, where she took in twenty-two hogsheads of tobacco, some linen, and fifteen tons of ballast. From thence they proceeded to Deal, having taken on board at Yarmouth an additional hand, named Walsh, a bricklayer's labourer. At Deal, Douglas, the mate, complained of rheumatism, and left them. Storrow went away, and was succeeded by Read. They took in another hand, named Lacy.

The Captain said, as witness was bringing him off shore,

that witness should take Douglas's berth; but witness said he was not capable, not knowing navigation. The Captain said, as long as he pleased him that was enough. They did not sail from Deal as soon as they might. The Captain said, at one time, he waited for letters; and at another, he waited for a wind. At length they sailed, five or six days before the vessel went down. The Captain gave strict orders to keep the boat free; witness put in four oars, cutting two of them to the length. Formerly they threw lumber into the boat, but the Captain ordered that none should be put there, and that there should be plenty of tholes, or pins, for the oars. He also said they should not be in the ship forty-eight hours longer. This was Friday. On Saturday he said that night should be the last: it was impossible she could carry them through the Bay of Biscay. He did not think her trustworthy for his life, and why should witness for his? The Captain then sent witness down to mix grog for himself and Read, and some of the crew. Witness was afterwards walking the quarter-deck; the Captain was at the helm, and called witness to relieve him. The Captain went below. He came up in a quarter of an hour and said to the witness: "Go down, and you will find an auger on the cabin-deck; take up the scuttle, and bore two or three holes in the run, as close down to the bottom as possible." The witness went down and found the auger; it was a new one, bought by the Captain at Deal, and was put into the handle of another auger. He bored three holes, close down in the run, with two augers and a spike gimlet, which he left in the holes. The witness came on deck and told the Captain he had bored the holes. The Captain asked if the water was coming in. Witness said, not much, for he had left the augers in the holes. The Captain said they might remain till daylight. On Sunday morning the cabin-boy was prevented from coming down by the Captain; before that he always came down and got breakfast in the cabin.

At daybreak witness pulled out the augers and the water came in, but the Captain did not think it came in in sufficient quantity, and wished for the mall to enlarge the holes. The

witness said the crowbar would do. The Captain ordered him to bring the crowbar and make the holes larger; he did so. The Captain was present all the time, and assisted to knock down the lockers, to make room. The crowbar went through the bottom, and the witness believed the augers did also. Mr Read was in bed, close by the holds; the distance might be about four yards. Mr Read turned himself round several times while the witness was boring the holes, but he never spoke; nor did the witness speak to him. The auger did not make much noise.

When the holes were bored the witness called Read, by the Captain's order; he came on deck, but shortly after he went down and went to bed again. The bed was on the larboard side of the cabin. Read could not see the augers, but he might hear the water run, as the cabin-boy heard it, and the witness heard it himself, a small hole being left open to keep the pumps at work. Read went to bed again, but he was on deck when the hole was beat with the crowbar. Read was permitted to go down, but the boys were not. When the hole was beat through, the colours were hoisted; the boat was already out, and all hands in it, except the Captain and witness. Witness packed up his things when he was told they could not be forty-eight hours in the vessel, but he mentioned the matter to nobody. He packed them in a bread-bag which he emptied on the deck. While the holes were being bored, the Captain ordered the men aloft to take in sail; no one could possibly see or hear him, except witness, the Captain, and Read.

They left the vessel at eight o'clock. Several boats came off on the signal. The people in them said they (Captain Codlin and his people) had met with a sad misfortune; they answered yes. One boat asked if they wanted any assistance, and offered to tow them on shore. The Captain said she was his while she swam, and they had no business with her. The *Swallow* revenue cutter then came up and took the brig in tow, fastening a hawse to the mast; the brig, which lay on her beam-ends before, immediately righted, and went down. Witness had no doubt that she went down in con-

sequence of the holes. Read's trunk had come on board at Deal; it was sent back the next day. Witness helped it into the boat. It was full of line when it came, and was not locked. Witness did not know what it contained when it went back. Captain Codlin and the whole crew went to the Ship Tavern at Brighton. Read said to a lady who came to see him that he had lost everything belonging to him, and that he was ruined. Easterby and Macfarlane came to Brighton on Tuesday; they went to the Ship Tavern. Easterby asked where the holes were, and of what size. There were some carpenter's tools on the floor, which had been brought from the vessel. Easterby asked if the holes were of the same size as the handle of the chisel that was among the tools; and, being told they were, said the witness should prepare the handle to plug the holes, in case the ship should come on shore, as she was then driving in. Macfarlane was in the room, but witness could not say whether he heard, as he spoke in a low voice. Easterby said Codlin was a d—d fool; he had made a stupid job of it: he should have done the business on the French coast, and then he might have made the shore of either country in the boat, in such fine weather. Macfarlane discoursed with them, but witness did not hear what he said. Macfarlane and Easterby ordered the Captain and witness to go to London together and take private lodgings, in which they should keep close, or they would be under sentence of death. Macfarlane took seats in the coach for them, and paid their passage. Read wrote on a piece of paper where witness was to go to in London, to Macfarlane's house. Witness received nine shillings as wages, and Macfarlane gave him a guinea; this was after he had described the size of the hole. He could not say whether the others were paid their wages. Witness came up with one of the bags, the Captain being stopped by a gentleman (Mr Douglas). The boy was put in his place at five or six in the morning. Read went with witness to the coach offices; Macfarlane came after, and Easterby came with the boy, who was apprentice to Storrow. Only one pump had been worked for a length of time in the ship,

the other was not in order. There was a gear for the other, but the Captain did not want to find it. The Captain sent the boy down for his greatcoat; the boy, on his return, said the water was running. The Captain said it was no such thing, it was only the water in the run; and told the boy to go forward. He ordered witness to go down and see, but jogged him as he passed, and told him to say it was nothing. Witness, on coming up, said it was only the water in the run. Witness stayed in London two nights, and then went to his mother, near Saxmundham, in Suffolk. Having no money, and failing to get a ship, after several applications, he walked the whole way, which is eighty-eight miles. When he arrived, his mother told him there had been people after him, about a ship; and there had been handbills, offering a reward. He immediately sent for the constable of the place, Mr Askettle, and surrendered himself, to whom he told everything, desiring him to take him to London.

John Morris, George Kennedy, Lacy, and James Walsh corroborated Cooper's testimony. Storrow proved the intent of the voyage, that it was to defraud the underwriters. The insurances were also proved. Several witnesses gave Read and Macfarlane a good character.

As it appeared that Read had taken no active part in the business, and as one of the witnesses had intimated that he was deaf—the learned judge observing that it was possible he could not hear the conspirators talking, and the boring of the ship, etc.—he was acquitted, and the rest found guilty; but two points of law having been elucidated by Mr Erskine in favour of Easterby and Macfarlane, judgment was accordingly arrested, for the decision of the twelve judges. The prisoners heard the verdict with much firmness—Read, with composure; Easterby, apparently with indifference, looking around him; Macfarlane's features showed he was inwardly much affected, though he bore himself with firmness.

Sir William Scott then pronounced sentence of death on Codlin in an impressive manner. Codlin retired with a firm and undaunted deportment, taking a respectful leave of the Court as he went out.

Previous to his execution he freely communicated to Mr Dring all the circumstances of his crime. At Brighton, he said, between five and six guineas were given him, and he was urged to go off, being assured that if he was taken he would be hanged. On Saturday morning, 27th of November, 1802, he was brought out of the jail of Newgate to proceed to undergo his sentence at the docks at Wapping.

He was conducted from Newgate, by Ludgate Hill and St Paul's, into Cheapside. A number of peace officers on horseback were at the head of the procession. Some officers belonging to the Court of Admiralty, with the City Marshals, followed next. The sheriffs were in a coach, as was also the ordinary of Newgate, the Rev. Dr Ford. Codlin was in a cart, with a rope fastened round his neck and shoulders. He sat between the executioner and his assistant. As he passed down Cheapside, Cornhill and Leadenhall Street, and onward through Aldgate and Ratcliff Highway, he continued to read the accustomed prayers with great devotion, in which he was joined by those who sat with him in the cart. He ascended the ladder to the scaffold without betraying any emotions of terror. His body, after hanging for the due length of time, was cut down, and carried away in a boat by his friends.

GEORGE FOSTER

Executed at Newgate, 18th of January, 1803, for the Murder of his Wife and Child, by drowning them in the Paddington Canal; with a Curious Account of Galvanic Experiments on his Body

GEORGE FOSTER was put upon his trial, on the horrid charge above mentioned, at the Old Bailey, 14th of January, 1803.

The Chief Baron, in summing up to the jury, said that this was a case which almost entirely depended upon circumstantial evidence, but in some cases that might be the best evidence, as it was certainly the most difficult, if

not impossible, to fabricate. The jury, after some consultation, pronounced a verdict of guilty.

The recorder proceeded to pass sentence upon the prisoner; which was, that he be hanged by the neck until he be dead, and that then his body be delivered to be anatomised, according to the law in that case made and provided.

This unfortunate malefactor was executed pursuant to his sentence, 18th of January, 1803. At three minutes after eight he appeared on the platform before the debtors' door in the Old Bailey, and after passing a short time in prayer with Dr Ford, the ordinary of Newgate, the cap was pulled over his eyes, when, the stage falling from under him, he was launched into eternity. He had fully confessed his having perpetrated the horrible crime for which he suffered.

After hanging the usual time, his body was cut down and conveyed to a house not far distant, where it was subjected to the galvanic process by Professor Aldini, under the inspection of Mr Keate, Mr Carpue and several other professional gentlemen. M. Aldini, who is the nephew of the discoverer of this most interesting science, showed the eminent and superior powers of galvanism to be far beyond any other stimulant in nature. On the first application of the process to the face, the jaws of the deceased criminal began to quiver, and the adjoining muscles were horribly contorted, and one eye was actually opened. In the subsequent part of the process the right hand was raised and clenched, and the legs and thighs were set in motion.[1] Mr Pass, the beadle of the Surgeons' Company, who was

[1] An experiment was made on a convict named Patrick Redmond, who was hanged for a street robbery, on the 24th of February, 1767, in order to bring him to life. It appeared that the sufferer had hung twenty-eight minutes when the mob rescued the body and carried it to an appointed place, where a surgeon was in attendance to try the experiment *bronchotomy*, which is an incision in the windpipe, and which in less than six hours produced the desired effect. A collection was made for the poor fellow, and interest made to obtain his pardon, for it will be remembered that the law says the condemned shall *hang until he be dead*; consequently men who, like Redmond, recovered, were liable to be again hanged up until they were dead.

officially present during this experiment, was so alarmed that he died of fright soon after his return home.

Some of the uninformed bystanders thought that the wretched man was on the eve of being restored to life. This, however, was impossible, as several of his friends, who were under the scaffold, had violently pulled his legs, in order to put a more speedy termination to his sufferings. The experiment, in fact, was of a better use and tendency. Its object was to show the excitability of the human frame when this animal electricity was duly applied. In cases of drowning or suffocation it promised to be of the utmost use, by reviving the action of the lungs, and thereby rekindling the expiring spark of vitality. In cases of apoplexy, or disorders of the head, it offered also most encouraging prospects for the benefit of mankind.

The professor, we understand, had made use of galvanism also in several cases of insanity, and with complete success. It was the opinion of the first medical men that this discovery, if rightly managed and duly prosecuted, could not fail to be of great, and perhaps as yet unforeseen, utility.

COLONEL EDWARD MARCUS DESPARD, JOHN FRANCIS, JOHN WOOD, THOMAS BROUGHTON, JAMES SEDGWICK WRATTON, ARTHUR GRAHAM AND JOHN MACNAMARA

Executed in Horsemonger Lane, Southwark, 21st of February, 1803, for High Treason

LORD ELLENBOROUGH, in passing sentence, said: "Such disclosures have been made as to prove, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the objects of your atrocious, abominable and traitorous conspiracy were to overthrow the government, and to seize upon and destroy the sacred person of our august and revered Sovereign, and the illustrious branches of his Royal house."

If such were the objects aimed at by these men, as the

noble and learned judge declared to have been the case, it was certainly the most vain and impotent attempt ever engendered in the distracted brain of an enthusiast. Without arms, or any probable means, a few dozen men, the very dregs of society, led on by a disappointed and disaffected chief, were to overturn a mighty empire; nor does it appear that any man of their insignificant band of conspirators—Colonel Despard alone excepted—was above the level of the plebeian race. Yet a small party of this description, seduced to disloyalty by a contemptible leader, brooding over their vain attempts at a mean public-house in St George's Fields, alarmed the nation.

The members of this rebellious gang were Edward Marcus Despard, a colonel in the army, aged fifty; John Francis, a private soldier, aged twenty-three; John Wood, a private soldier, aged thirty-six; Thomas Broughton, a carpenter, aged twenty-six; James Sedgwick Wratton, a shoemaker, aged thirty-five; John Macnamara, a carpenter, aged fifty; and Arthur Graham, a slater, aged fifty-three.

Still more shocking to relate, all of them were married men, leaving numerous offspring to bewail their fathers' fate and their own loss. There were others of the gang tried and acquitted, and some pardoned.

Colonel Despard, the ill-starred leader of these misguided men, was descended from a very ancient and respectable family in Queen's County, in Ireland. He was the youngest of six brothers, all of whom, except the eldest, had served their country either in the army or navy.

He so well discharged his duty as a colonel that he was appointed superintendent of his Majesty's affairs on the coast of Honduras, which office he held much to the advantage of the Crown of England, for he obtained from that of Spain some very important privileges. The clashing interests, however, of the inhabitants of this coast produced much discontent, and the Colonel was, by a party of them, accused of various misdemeanours to his Majesty's Ministers.

He came home and demanded that his conduct should be investigated, but, after two years' constant

attendance on all the departments of Government, was at last told by the Ministers that there was no charge against him worthy of investigation, and that his Majesty had thought proper to abolish the office of superintendent at Honduras, otherwise he should have been reinstated in it; but he was then, and on every occasion, assured that his services should not be forgotten, but in due time meet their reward.

While in the Bay of Honduras the Colonel had married a native of that place.

The Colonel, it seems, irritated by continual disappointments, began now to vent his indignation in an unguarded manner; consequently he became a suspicious character, and was for some time a prisoner in Coldbath Fields, under the Habeas Corpus Act, then lately passed, and which empowered Ministers to keep in confinement all suspected characters.

Imprisonment increased the rancour of his heart, and on his liberation he could not conceal his malignancy towards Government. Thus inflamed, he endeavoured to inflame others, and at length brought upon himself, and those poor ignorant wretches who were seduced by his arguments, disgrace and death.

On the 16th of November, 1802, in consequence of a search warrant, a numerous body of police officers went to the Oakley Arms, Oakley Street, Lambeth, where they apprehended Colonel Despard, and nearly forty labouring men and soldiers, many of them Irish. The next morning they were all brought up before the magistrates at Union Hall. The result of the examination was that Colonel Despard was committed to the county jail, and afterwards to Newgate; twelve of his low associates (six of whom were soldiers) were sent to Tothill Fields Bridewell, and twenty to the New Prison, Clerkenwell. Ten other persons, who had been found in a different room, and who appeared to have no concern whatever with the Colonel's party, were instantly discharged.

The Colonel's conduct during all his examinations was invariably the same: he was silent during the whole.

The Privy Council, the more effectually to try the prisoners, issued a Special Commission.

The trial of Colonel Despard came on on Monday, the 7th of February, 1803. The indictment, which consisted of three counts, having been read, the prosecution was opened by the Attorney-General, who, in a very eloquent and impartial manner, laid before the jury the whole of the charges.

The prisoners designed on that day to carry into effect their plan, by laying restraint upon the King's person and destroying him. They frequently attempted to seduce soldiers into the association, in which they sometimes succeeded and sometimes failed. Francis administered unlawful oaths to those who yielded, and, among others, to Blades and Windsor, giving them at the same time two or three copies of the oath, that they might be enabled to make proselytes in their turn.

Windsor soon after became dissatisfied, and gave information of the conspiracy to a Mr Bonus, and showed him a copy of the oath. This gentleman advised him to continue a member of the association, that he might learn whether there were any persons of consequence engaged in it.

On the Friday before the intended assassination of his Majesty a meeting took place, when Broughton prevailed upon two of the associates to go to the Flying Horse, Newington, where they would meet with a *nice man*, which *nice man*, as he styled him, was the prisoner Despard.

Thomas Windsor, the chief witness, declared the manner in which he took the oath, and the plan of the conspiracy. Having mentioned the intended mode of proceeding, he said the prisoner observed that the attack should be made on the day his Majesty went to the Parliament House, and that his Majesty must be put to death; at the same time the prisoner said: "I have weighed the matter well, and my heart is callous."

After the destruction of the King, the mail-coaches were to be stopped, as a signal to the people in the country that the revolt had taken place in town. The prisoner then desired witness to meet him the ensuing morning, at half-past eleven o'clock, on Tower Hill, and to bring with him four or five intelligent men, to consider upon the

best manner for taking the Tower and securing the arms. Witness accordingly met him at the Tiger public-house, on Tower Hill, having brought with him two or three soldiers. The prisoner then repeated his declaration that the King must be put to death; and Wood promised, when the King was going to the House, that he would post himself as sentry over the great gun in the Park, that he would load it, and fire at his Majesty's coach as he passed through the Park.

The several meetings, consultations, etc., were further proved by William Campbell, Charles Read, Joseph Walker, Thomas Blades, and other witnesses.

Lord Nelson gave the prisoner a most excellent character. They were on the Spanish main together. They served together, and he declared him to have been a loyal man and a good officer. On cross-examination his lordship said he had not seen him since the year 1780.

Sir Alured Clarke and Sir Evan Nepean bore testimony of his having been a zealous officer.

Mr Gurney, the other counsel for the prisoner, addressed the jury in an able speech; and the Solicitor-General having replied on the part of the Crown, Lord Ellenborough summed up.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, but earnestly recommended him to mercy, on account of his former good character and the services he had rendered his country.

On the following Wednesday, 9th of February, the trial of the other prisoners took place, when the same circumstances, chiefly by the same witnesses, were repeated, and nine (already named) out of twelve were found guilty, three of whom were recommended to mercy.

Lord Ellenborough, in a style of awful solemnity highly befitting the melancholy but just occasion, addressed the prisoners nearly to the following purport: "You" (calling each prisoner separately by name) "have been separately indicted for conspiring against his Majesty's person, his Crown, and Government, for the purposes of subverting the same, and changing the government of this realm. After a long, patient and, I hope, just and impartial trial, you have

been all of you severally convicted, by a most respectable jury of your country, upon the several crimes laid to your charge. In the course of evidence upon your trial such disclosures have been made as to prove, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the objects of your atrocious and traitorous conspiracy were to overthrow the Government, and to seize upon and destroy the sacred persons of our august and revered Sovereign, and the illustrious branches of his Royal house, which some of you, by the most solemn bond of your oath of allegiance, were pledged, and all of you, as his Majesty's subjects, were indispensably bound, by your duty, to defend; to overthrow that constitution, its established freedom and boasted usages, which have so long maintained among us that just and rational equality of rights, and security of property, which have been for so many ages the envy and admiration of the world; and to erect upon its ruins a wild system of anarchy and bloodshed, having for its object the subversion of all property and the massacre of its proprietors; the annihilation of all legitimate authority and established order—for such must be the import of that promise held out by the leaders of this atrocious conspiracy, of ample provision for the families of those heroes who should fall in the struggle. It has, however, pleased that Divine Providence, which has mercifully watched over the safety of this nation, to defeat your wicked and abominable purpose, by arresting your projects in their dark and dangerous progress, and thus averting that danger which your machinations had suspended over our heads; and by your timely detection, seizure and submittal to public justice, to afford time for the many thousands of his Majesty's innocent and loyal subjects, the intended victims of your atrocious and sanguinary purpose, to escape that danger which so recently menaced them, and which, I trust, is not yet become too formidable for utter defeat.

"The only thing remaining for me is the painful task of pronouncing against you, and each of you, the awful sentence which the law denounces against your crime, which is, that you, and each of you" (here his Lordship named the prisoners

severally), " be taken from the place from whence you came, and from thence you are to be drawn on hurdles to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged by the neck, but not until you are dead; for while you are still living your bodies are to be taken down, your bowels torn out and burned before your faces, your heads then cut off, and your bodies divided each into four quarters, and your heads and quarters to be then at the King's disposal; and may the Almighty God have mercy on your souls!"

On Saturday afternoon, the 19th of February, was received the information that the warrant for execution, to take place on the following Monday, was made out, which contained a remission of part of the sentence—viz. the taking out and burning their bowels before their faces, and dividing their bodies. It was sent to the keeper of the New Jail in the Borough at six o'clock on Saturday evening, and included the names already given.

The three other prisoners, Newman, Tyndall and Lander, were respited. As soon as the warrant for execution was received it was communicated to the unhappy persons by the keeper of the prison, Mr Ives, with as much tenderness and humanity as the awful nature of the case required.

Colonel Despard observed that the time was short: yet he had not had, from the first, any strong expectation that the recommendation of the jury would be effectual. The mediation of Lord Nelson and a petition to the Crown were tried, but Colonel Despard was convinced, according to report, that they would be unavailing.

Soon after the warrant was received all papers, and everything he possessed, were immediately taken from the Colonel.

Mrs Despard was greatly affected when she first heard his fate was sealed, but afterwards recovered her fortitude. Mr and Mrs Despard bore up with great firmness at parting; and when she got into a coach, as it drove off she waved her handkerchief out of the window.

At daylight on Sunday morning the drop, scaffold and gallows, on which they were to be executed, were erected

on the top of the jail. All the Bow Street patrol, and many other peace officers, were on duty all day and night, and the military near London were drawn up close to it.

Seven shells, or coffins, were brought into prison to receive the bodies, and two large bags filled with sawdust, and the block on which they were to be beheaded. At four o'clock the next morning, the 21st of February, the drum beat at the Horse Guards, as a signal for the cavalry to assemble.

At six o'clock the Life Guards arrived, and took their station at the end of the different roads at the Obelisk, in St George's Fields, whilst all the officers from Bow Street, Queen Square, Marlborough Street, Hatton Garden, Worship Street, Whitechapel, Shadwell, etc., attended. There were parties of the Life Guards riding up and down the roads.

At half-past six the prison bell rang—the signal for unlocking the cells. At seven o'clock Colonel Despard and the other prisoners were brought down from their cells, their irons knocked off, and their arms bound with ropes. When the Colonel came out he shook hands very cordially with his solicitor, and returned him many thanks for his kind attention. Then, observing the sledge and apparatus, he smilingly cried out: "Ha! ha! What nonsensical mummery is this?"

As soon as the prisoners were placed on the hurdle, St George's bell tolled for some time. They were preceded by the sheriff, Sir R. Ford, the clergyman, Mr Winkworth, and the Roman Catholic clergyman, Mr Griffith.

The coffins, or shells, which had been previously placed in a room under the scaffold, were then brought up and placed on the platform, on which the drop was erected; the bags of sawdust, to catch the blood when the heads were severed from the bodies, were placed beside them. The block was near the scaffold. There were about a hundred spectators on the platform, among whom were some characters of distinction. The greatest order was observed.

At seven minutes before nine o'clock the signal was given, the platform dropped, and they were all launched into eternity.

After hanging about half-an-hour, till they were quite dead, they were cut down. Colonel Despard was first cut down, his body placed upon sawdust, and his head upon a block; after his coat and waistcoat had been taken off, his head was severed from his body, by persons engaged on purpose to perform that ceremony. The executioner then took the head by the hair and, carrying it to the edge of the parapet on the right hand, held it up to the view of the populace, and exclaimed: "This is the head of a traitor, Edward Marcus Despard." The same ceremony was performed on the parapet at the left hand.

His remains were now put into the shell that had been prepared for him.

The other prisoners were then cut down, their heads severed from their bodies and exhibited to the populace, with the same exclamation of "This is the head of another traitor." The bodies were then put into their different shells and delivered to their friends for interment.

The body of Colonel Despard was taken away on the 1st of March, by his friends, with a hearse and three mourning-coaches, and interred near the north door of St Paul's Cathedral. The City Marshal was present, lest there should be any disturbance on the occasion.

The remains of the other six were deposited in one grave, in the vault under the Rev. Mr Harper's chapel, in London Road, St George's Fields.

JOHN TERRY AND JOSEPH HEALD

Executed under Extraordinary Circumstances at York, 21st of March, 1803, for Murder

JOHN TERRY and his fellow-apprentice, Joseph Heald, were found guilty of the wilful murder of Elizabeth Smith, aged sixty-seven years, at Flaminshaw, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.

The deceased bore an excellent character, and had maintained herself by keeping cows and selling their produce.

Having had the misfortune to lose two of her cows she was left nearly destitute, but by the humane assistance of her neighbours she was enabled to purchase one cow; and a son, who lived at Leeds, sent her eighteen guineas afterwards to buy another, but desired her not to purchase it before fog-time. On her receiving the eighteen guineas it was immediately made known amongst her neighbours.

T. Shaw and S. Linley, constables, proved the confession of Terry, which was that he and Heald met together on the night on which the murder was committed, and parted at ten o'clock to meet again at the deceased's about one o'clock. They met. Then he (Terry) assisted Heald in getting into a window, up one pair of stairs; he afterwards set up something against the house and climbed up after Heald. After several blows had been struck at the deceased, Heald took a razor and Terry held her head. In a short time he had his hand cut, and advised Heald to desist, as he had got enough; then he went to the door, to see if all was safe. Upon his return he found that Heald had got the deceased into the adjoining room, and was beating her over the head with the tongs; upon which he told him to desist and come away, and there would be no more about it. Afterwards, when Heald was brought into the room after Terry had made the confession, Heald said to him: "Terry, I thought thou wouldst not have deceived me so; thou knowest I was not with thee." To which he answered: "Thou knowest there is a God above Who knows all." A second time Heald asked him why he should deceive him, and said: "Thou hadst better lay it upon somebody else." To which he replied: "I will not hang an innocent man; thou knowest there were but us two, and God for our witness."

The jury declared both the prisoners guilty. Accordingly the judge, in the most solemn manner, pronounced sentence of death upon them.

Their execution was fixed for Monday, 21st of March. When, early in the morning, the Rev. Mr Brown, the ordinary, attended the prisoners in their cell, in order to

administer the Sacrament, Terry informed him that Heald was innocent; on which Mr Brown stated to them the leading facts that were proved against them upon their trial, and referred to Terry's own confession of the manner in which they had perpetrated the murder.

Terry said that he had been induced to make that confession, as he had been told that he should thereby save his own life; but he now declared Heald to be innocent, and that he would not be hanged with an innocent man.

In consequence of this declaration the ordinary thought it his duty to inform the judge of this extraordinary circumstance, but his Lordship was so perfectly satisfied of Heald's guilt that he ordered the sentence to be put into execution. His Lordship, however, humanely sent his marshal, Mr Wells, to attend the prisoners, with a discretionary power to respite the execution should any circumstances appear to him, respecting Heald, that would justify the measure.

Mr Wells was convinced, from the conversation that passed, that Terry had not spoken the truth, and in consequence they were left to their fate.

Again Terry, when proceeding from the cell to the drop, exclaimed aloud that Heald was innocent, and that they were going to hang an innocent man, and appeared to have worked himself up to a state of frenzy and distraction.

On their being brought on the platform, a scene of more brutal stubbornness was never witnessed than that which was exhibited by this young offender; for as soon as he got on, he went forward to the front and exclaimed in a loud voice: "They are going to hang an innocent man" (meaning Heald); "he is as innocent as any of you!" As he uttered this he immediately made a sudden spring, in order to get down the ladder, which he certainly would have effected had he not been laid hold of by the clergyman. While they were pulling him back he again exclaimed: "It was *me* that murdered the woman. I said it was Heald, but I did so to save my own life; and would not any of you hang an innocent man to save your own life?" These words he

afterwards repeated, adding: "Don't hang Heald; if you do, I shall be guilty of *two* murders."

The clergyman then proceeded to do his duty; to which Terry paid no attention, but continued very clamorous, notwithstanding the entreaties of Heald not to deprive him of the benefit of the prayers. But Terry was not to be restrained; and it was with the utmost exertions of five or six men that he could be dragged to the drop and the rope forced over his head, during which he tore off his cap. At the moment the platform sank, which put an end to the life of Heald, Terry made a spring, and threw himself against a rail of the scaffold, got his foot upon the edge of a beam, and caught the corner-post with his arm, by which he supported himself; and in this dreadful situation he continued for about a minute, till he was forced off by the executioner, and launched into eternity, with his face uncovered.

CAPTAIN MACNAMARA

Who killed Colonel Montgomery in a Duel arising out of a Quarrel about Dogs, and was acquitted on a Charge of Manslaughter

THE Clerk of the Arraigns said: "James Macnamara, you stand charged on the coroner's inquest for that you, on the 6th of April, 1803, did, with force of arms, in the parish of St Pancras, in the county of Middlesex, on Robert Montgomery, Esq., feloniously make an assault, and a certain pistol, of the value of ten shillings, charged and loaded with powder and a leaden bullet, which you held in your right hand, to and against the body of the said Robert Montgomery, did feloniously shoot off and discharge, and did feloniously give, with the leaden bullet so as aforesaid discharged by force of the gunpowder, in the right side of the body of the said Robert Montgomery, one mortal wound; so the jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths, say that you, Robert Montgomery, in manner aforesaid, did

feloniously kill and slay, against the peace of our lord the King, and against the form of the statute."

To which the prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Mr Knapp then said: "Gentlemen of the jury, the only question you have to try is, whether the gentleman who is stated in the inquisition to have lost his life lost it by the act of the prisoner—lost it in a rencounter which took place between them at Primrose Hill; and if you are of opinion that the prisoner was the cause of the death of the deceased, in consequence of the pistol he fired at him in that rencounter, there can be no question; but your verdict must find him guilty of manslaughter. Both the prisoner at the bar and the gentleman who has lost his life are persons most respectably connected. The prisoner is a gentleman of acknowledged bravery in the service of his country, and eminent for his good qualities. The deceased was a man who deserved the affection and regard of everyone who knew him." The learned counsel shortly stated the facts: he adverted to the origin of the quarrel between the prisoner and the deceased; their subsequent meeting at Primrose Hill, attended by their seconds and surgeon, and the fatal result of that meeting. The following witnesses were then called.

William Sloane, Esq., sworn, said: "I was in Hyde Park on Wednesday, the 6th of April, between the hours of four and five in the afternoon. I was on horseback, in company with Colonel Montgomery, the deceased, and my brother, Stephen Sloane. There was a Newfoundland dog following Colonel Montgomery; there was another dog of the same species following some gentlemen who were also on horseback. We were in that part of Hyde Park between the bridge and the barrier when the dogs began fighting. Colonel Montgomery turned round and jumped off his horse to separate them: they were separated. I heard Colonel Montgomery call out: 'Whose dog is this?' Captain Macnamara answered: 'It is my dog.' Colonel Montgomery said: 'If you do not call your dog off I shall knock him down.' Captain Macnamara replied: 'Have

you the arrogance to say you will knock my dog down?' Colonel Montgomery said: 'I certainly shall, if he falls on my dog.' About this time Lord Buckhurst came up, and some further conversation passed. I heard the word 'arrogance' made use of several times; Captain Macnamara made use of it. We all proceeded to Piccadilly. Colonel Montgomery and Captain Macnamara gave their names to each other. The prisoner said he was Captain Macnamara of the Royal Navy. Colonel Montgomery said: 'It is not my intention to quarrel with you, but if your dog falls on mine I shall knock him down.' I took leave of Colonel Montgomery at the top of St James's Street, with the intention of going home. I saw Mr Macnamara's party turning back to go down St James's Street: at that time I had first turned up Bond Street, but returned, and again joined Colonel Montgomery, who went down St James's Street with my brother. I afterwards saw Mr Macnamara in Jermyn Street. Colonel Montgomery had proceeded as far as St James's Church; they were about thirty yards from the church when a person, I believe Captain Barry, went from Mr Macnamara to Colonel Montgomery; I did not see him return again."

Lord Buckhurst (son of Lord Westmorland) said he was not present at the first dispute about the dogs; but he came up afterwards, and heard Captain Macnamara say that the way in which Colonel Montgomery had desired him to call off his dog was arrogant, and not in language fit to be used by one gentleman towards another. Captain Macnamara said he would as soon revenge an insult as any man, and would fight Colonel Montgomery as well as any other man who offered him an injury. Captain Macnamara was shaking his stick, but it appeared to be an involuntary action, the consequence of his passion, and not intended as an insult.

James Harding, vintner, Jermyn Street, said: "I was at Chalk Farm on the Wednesday, at half-past six. I observed the party—Captain Macnamara, Colonel Montgomery and three other gentlemen—ascending Primrose Hill. One of the party (Captain Barry) desired the servant to bring a case

out of the chaise; this opened my eyes to the business. I stood about fifty yards distant from them. I saw Sir W. Keir and Captain Barry conversing together, and preparing the pistols; one was discharged to see whether they were in good condition. The parties separated to about six yards. Colonel Montgomery fired and Captain Macnamara fired; they stood face to face. Both fired at the same time. Colonel Montgomery fell; Captain Macnamara did not. I went up. Colonel Montgomery was extended on the ground, and, shortly after, Mr Heaviside opened his waistcoat and looked at his wound; it was on his right side. Mr Heaviside administered relief to him and then went to Captain Macnamara. I think he said he was wounded, and that he must bleed him. I assisted in carrying Colonel Montgomery; his eyes were fixed, and he was groaning. I saw the corpse afterwards on a bed in Chalk Farm."

The prisoner was now called upon for his defence. He entreated the Court to indulge him with the permission of addressing the jury sitting, as he felt much pain and inconvenience from his wound while standing. His request was instantly complied with, and he delivered himself in these terms, but in so low and tremulous a tone as scarcely to be heard:

"Gentlemen of the jury, I appear before you with the consolation that my character has already been freed, by the verdict of a Grand Jury, from the shocking imputation of murder, and that although the evidence against me was laid before them without any explanation or evidence of the sensations which brought me into my present unhappy situation, they made their own impression, and no charge of criminal homicide was found against me. I was delivered at once from the whole effect of the indictment. I therefore now stand before you upon the inquisition only, taken before the coroner, upon the view of the body, under circumstances extremely affecting to the minds of those who were to deliberate on the transaction, and without the opportunity, which the benignity of the law affords me at this moment, of repelling that inference of even *sudden* resentment against

the deceased, which is the foundation of this inquest of manslaughter.

"The origin of the difference, as you see it in the evidence, was insignificant: the heat of two persons, each defending an animal under his protection, was natural, and could not have led to any serious consequences. It was not the deceased's defending his own dog or his threatening to destroy mine that led to the fatal catastrophe: it was the defiance alone which most unhappily accompanied what was said; for words receive their interpretation from the avowed intention of the speaker. The offence was forced upon me by the declaration that he invited me to be offended, and challenged me to vindicate the offence by calling upon him for satisfaction. 'If you are offended with what has passed, you know where to find me.' These words, unfortunately repeated and reiterated, have over and over again been considered by criminal courts of justice as sufficient to support an indictment for a challenge.

"Gentlemen, I am a captain in the British Navy. My character you can hear only from others; but to maintain any character in that station I must be respected. When called upon to lead others into honourable dangers I must not be supposed to be a man who had sought safety by submitting to what custom has taught others to consider as a disgrace. I am not presuming to urge anything against the laws of God, or of this land. I know that, in the eye of religion and reason, obedience to the law, though against the general feelings of the world, is the first duty, and ought to be the rule of action; but in putting a construction upon my motives, so as to ascertain the quality of my actions, you will make allowance for my situation."

Witnesses for the defence were then called.

Lord Hood said: "I have been acquainted with the prisoner, Captain Macnamara, eight or ten years; I had the good fortune to promote him in the year 1794. I always considered him a man of great moderation, and of gentlemanly manners. It was from the high situation in which he stood, in my opinion, as an officer of merit, that I promoted him."

Lord Nelson said: "I have known Captain Macnamara nine years; he has been at various times under my command. During my acquaintance with him I had not only the highest esteem and respect for him as an officer, but I always looked upon him as a gentleman, who would not take an affront from any man; yet, as I stand here before God and my country, I never knew nor heard that he ever gave offence to man, woman or child during my acquaintance with him."

Lord Hotham, Lord Minto, Sir Hyde Parker and Sir Thomas Trowbridge, K.B., one of the Lords of the Admiralty, also gave evidence.

Mr Justice Heath then addressed the jury, and they retired from court for about twenty minutes. On their return the foreman pronounced a verdict of not guilty.

ROBERT SMITH

Executed before Newgate for robbing Coachmen on the Highway, 8th of June, 1803

THIS singular robber was a Scotsman, and one of those adventurers who, ingenious in wickedness, devise new plans of depredation, and make the industrious, whose hard earnings they enjoy, the chief objects of their prey.

The mode of robbery which this man adopted was that of employing a hackney-coach to drive him to some outlet, and then robbing the coachman in the first lonesome place he came to, in which for some time he was too successful. This trade he commenced early in the month of March, 1803, when, being genteelly dressed, at night, about ten o'clock, he hired a hackney-coach at Charing Cross, and ordered the coachman to drive to St John's Farm, near the first milestone on the Edgware Road. When the coach got to the top of the lane leading to St John's Farm, Smith pulled the string and asked the coachman to let him get out, as he had passed the house he wanted to go to; upon which the coachman got off his box and let him out of the

coach. Smith then asked what his fare was. When he was told five shillings and sixpence, he put his hand into a side-pocket, pulled out a pistol, and swore he would immediately shoot him if he did not deliver his money, which the coachman complied with. Smith then demanded his watch, which the coachman likewise delivered, and with which he made his escape across some fields. On Monday night (6th of March), about eleven o'clock, he hired another coach, and ordered the coachman to drive to St George's Row, on the Uxbridge Road. When the coach arrived at that place the man got out and, with horrid threats, demanded the coachman's money, at the same time presenting a very long pistol to his breast, and slightly wounding him in the side with a tuck-stick. The coachman delivered his money, amounting to two seven-shilling pieces and eight shillings and sixpence in silver. The robber, on parting, told the coachman that if he attempted to pursue him he would shoot him. But his career did not last long, for on Sunday night, the 19th of March, about ten o'clock, as Thomas Jones and others of the patrol were on duty in King's Road they met Smith, whom they questioned as to his business, etc., and he not being able to give a satisfactory account, one of the patrol put his hand on his breast, and discovered a pistol.

On Monday morning he was brought to Bow Street, and underwent an examination, when the hackney-coachman who was robbed near St John's Farm attended; and when a pawnbroker produced a watch corresponding to one of Smith's pawn-tickets he positively identified the watch, and also the person to be the robber.

T. Jones (another hackney-coachman, who was robbed in Maiden Lane) attended, and likewise identified a watch produced by a pawnbroker, and the person of the prisoner. The prisoner refused to give any name, or to give any account of himself. He gave the names of Gordon and Smith when he pledged the watches.

On his re-examination, in addition to the charges before exhibited against him, Francis Treadwell, another driver of

a hackney-coach, stated how the prisoner had robbed and wounded him.

Also John Chilton, a porter at Mr Spode's Staffordshire warehouse, swore that on the evening of the 14th instant, about eight o'clock, the prisoner stopped and robbed him of three shillings and sixpence, near Bayswater, and slightly wounded him on the breast with a tuck-stick.

The driver of another hackney-coach identified the prisoner as having robbed him a short time since, near Wandsworth, Surrey.

On his trial the prisoner pleaded guilty, and the jury pronounced a verdict in accord with his own confession and the evidence before them. He pleaded, however, for mercy, on the ground of its being his first offence; but Mr Justice Heath observed that his plea could not be listened to, for there were five other indictments against him for similar offences, and a sixth for firing at a person with intent to rob.

He was executed at the front of the debtors' door, in the Old Bailey, on the 8th of June, 1803.

JOHN HATFIELD

"The Keswick Impostor." Executed at Carlisle, 3rd of September, 1803, for Forgery; with Particulars of the once celebrated "Beauty of Buttermere," a Victim to his Villainy

JOHN HATFIELD was born in 1759, at Mottram, in Longdale, Cheshire. Although of low descent, he possessed many natural abilities. His face was handsome, his person genteel, his eyes blue, and his complexion fair.

After some domestic depredations (for, in his early days, he betrayed an iniquitous disposition) he quitted his family, and was employed in the capacity of an agent to a linendraper in the north of England. In the course of this service he became acquainted with a young woman who had been nursed, and resided, at a farmer's house in the neighbourhood of his

employer. She had been, in her earlier life, taught to consider the people with whom she lived as her parents. When she arrived at a certain age the honest farmer explained to her the secret of her birth. He told her that, notwithstanding she had always considered him as her parent, he was in fact only her guardian, and that she was the natural daughter of Lord Robert Manners, who intended to give her one thousand pounds, provided she married with his approbation.

This discovery soon reached the ears of Hatfield. He immediately paid his respects at the farmer's, and, having represented himself as a young man of considerable expectations in the wholesale linen business, his visits were not discountenanced. The farmer, however, thought it incumbent on him to acquaint his lordship with a proposal made to him by Hatfield that he would marry the young woman if her relations were satisfied with their union, but on no other terms. This had so much the appearance of an honourable and prudent intention that his lordship, on being made acquainted with the circumstances, desired to see the lover. Hatfield accordingly paid his respects to the noble and unsuspecting parent, who, conceiving him to be what he represented himself, gave his consent at the first interview; and the day after the marriage took place he presented the bridegroom with a draft on his banker for fifteen hundred pounds. This transaction took place about the year 1771 or 1772.

Shortly after the receipt of his lordship's bounty Hatfield set off for London. He hired a small phaeton, and was perpetually at the coffee-houses in Covent Garden, describing himself to whatever company he chanced to meet as a near relation of the Rutland family, and vaunted of his parks and hounds; but he so varied in his descriptive figures that he acquired the appellation of "lying Hatfield."

When the marriage portion was exhausted he retreated from London, and was scarcely heard of until about the year 1782, when he again visited the metropolis, having left his wife, with three daughters she had borne him, to depend on the precarious charity of her relations. Happily she did not

long survive; and the author of her calamities, during his stay in London, soon experienced calamity himself, as he was arrested, and committed to the King's Bench Prison, for a debt amounting to the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds.

The Duke of Rutland, on being appealed to, sent to inquire if he was the man who had married the natural daughter of Lord Robert Manners, and being satisfied as to the fact, dispatched a messenger with two hundred pounds and had him released.

In the year 1784 or 1785 his Grace of Rutland was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and shortly after his arrival in Dublin, Hatfield made his appearance in that city. He immediately on landing engaged a suite of apartments at an hotel in College Green, and represented himself as being allied to the Viceroy, but that he could not appear at the castle until his horses, servants and carriages had arrived, which he had ordered, before leaving England, to be shipped at Liverpool. The easy and familiar manner in which he addressed the master of the hotel perfectly satisfied him that he had a man of consequence in his house, and matters were arranged accordingly.

At the expiration of one month the bill at the hotel amounted to sixty pounds and upwards. The landlord became importunate and arrested his guest, who was lodged in the prison of the Marshalsea. The Duke again came to his rescue, and he was released.

In 1792 he went to Scarborough, introduced himself to the acquaintance of several persons of distinction in that neighbourhood, and insinuated that he was, by the interest of the Duke of Rutland, soon to be one of the representatives in Parliament for the town of Scarborough. After several weeks' stay at the principal inn at Scarborough his imposture was detected by his inability to pay the bill. Soon after his arrival in London he was arrested for this debt and thrown into prison. He had been eight years and a half in confinement when a Miss Nation, of Devonshire, to whom he had become known, paid his debts, took him from prison, and gave him her hand in marriage.

Soon after he was liberated he had the good fortune to prevail with some highly respectable merchants in Devonshire to take him into partnership with them, and with a clergyman to accept his drafts to a large amount. He made, upon this foundation, a splendid appearance in London, and, before the General Election, even proceeded to canvass the rotten borough of Queenborough. Suspicions in the meantime arose in regard to his character and the state of his fortune. He retired from the indignation of his creditors, and was declared a bankrupt in order to bring his villainy to light. Having left his second wife and two infant children behind, at Tiverton, he visited other places; and at length, in July, 1802, arrived at the Queen's Head, in Keswick, in a carriage, but without any servant, where he assumed the name of the Honourable Alexander Augustus Hope, brother of the Earl of Hopetoun, and Member for Linlithgow. Unfortunately some evil genius directed his steps to the once happy cottage of poor Mary, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Robinson, an old couple, who kept a small public-house at the side of the beautiful lake of Buttermere, Cumberland, and by their industry had gained a little property. She was the only daughter, and probably her name would never have been known to the public but for the account given of her by the author of *A Fortnight's Ramble to the Lakes in Westmorland, Lancashire, and Cumberland*, in which she was referred to as the "Beauty of Buttermere." At length the supposed Colonel Hope procured a licence, on the 1st of October, and they were publicly married in the church of Lorton, on Saturday, the 2nd of October.

The day previous to his marriage he wrote to Mr M——, informing him that he was under the necessity of being absent for ten days on a journey into Scotland, and sent him a draft for thirty pounds, drawn on Mr Crumpt, of Liverpool, desiring him to cash it, and pay some small debts in Keswick with it, and send him on the balance, as he feared he might be short of cash on the road. This Mr M—— immediately did, and sent him ten guineas in addition to the balance. On the Saturday, Wood, the landlord of the

Queen's Head, returned from Lorton with the public intelligence that Colonel Hope had married the "Beauty of Buttermere." As it was clear, whoever he was, that he had acted unworthily and dishonourably, Mr M——'s suspicions were of course awakened. Eventually a warrant was given by Sir Frederick Vane on the clear proof of his having forged and received several "thanks" as the Member for Linlithgow, and he was committed to the care of a constable. Having, however, found means to escape, he took refuge for a few days on board a sloop off Ravinglass, and then went in the coach to Ulverston, and was afterwards seen in Chester.

Though he was personally known in Cheshire to many of the inhabitants, yet this specious hypocrite had so artfully disguised himself that he quitted the town without any suspicion before the Bow Street officers reached that place in quest of him. He was then traced to Brielth, in Brecknockshire, and was at length apprehended about sixteen miles from Swansea, and committed to Brecon Jail. He wore a cravat on which were his initials, J. H., and which he attempted to account for by calling himself John Henry.

His trial came on on the 15th of August, 1803, at the assizes for Cumberland, before the Honourable Alexander Thompson, Kt. He stood charged upon the three following indictments :—

1. With having assumed the name and title of the Honourable Alexander Augustus Hope and pretending to be a Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and with having, about the month of October last, under such false and fictitious name and character, drawn a draft, or bill of exchange, in the name of Alexander Hope, upon John Crumpt, Esq., for the sum of twenty pounds, payable to George Wood, of Keswick, Cumberland, innkeeper, or order, at the end of fourteen days from the date of the said draft or bill of exchange.

2. With making, uttering and publishing as true, a certain false, forged and counterfeit bill of exchange, with the name of Alexander Augustus Hope thereunto falsely set and subscribed, drawn upon John Crumpt, Esq., dated

the 1st of October, 1802, and payable to Nathaniel Montgomery Moore, or order, ten days after date, for thirty pounds sterling.

3. With having assumed the name of Alexander Hope, and pretending to be a Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the brother of the Right Hon. Lord Hopetoun, and a colonel in the army; and under such false and fictitious name and character, at various times in the month of October, 1802, having forged and counterfeited the handwriting of the said Alexander Hope, in the superscription of certain letters or packets, in order to avoid the payment of the duty of postage.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and he was sentenced to death. On the day of his execution, the 3rd of September, 1803, the sheriffs, the bailiffs, and the Carlisle volunteer cavalry attended at the jail door about half-past three, together with a post-chaise and a hearse. A prodigious crowd had assembled. It was market-day, and people had come from a distance of many miles out of mere curiosity. Hatfield, when he left the prison, wished all his fellow-prisoners to be happy. He then took farewell of the clergyman, who attended him to the door of the chaise, and mounted the steps with much steadiness and composure. The jailer and the executioner went along with him. The latter had been brought from Dumfries upon a retaining fee of ten guineas.

It was exactly four o'clock when the procession moved from the jail. Passing through the Scotch Gate, in about twelve minutes it arrived at the sands. Half the yeomanry went before the carriage, and the other half behind. Upon their arrival on the ground they formed a ring round the scaffold.

As soon as the carriage door was opened by the under-sheriff the culprit alighted with his two companions. A small dung-cart, boarded over, had been placed under the gibbet. A ladder was placed to this stage, which he instantly ascended. He immediately untied his neck-handkerchief and placed a bandage over his eyes. Then he desired the

hangman, who was extremely awkward, to be as expert as possible about it, and that he would wave a handkerchief when he was ready. The hangman not having fixed the rope in its proper place, he put up his hand and turned it himself. He also tied his cap, took his handkerchief from his own neck, and tied it about his head also. Then he requested the jailer to step upon the platform and pinion his arms a little harder, saying that when he had lost his senses he might attempt to place them to his neck. The rope was completely fixed about five minutes before four o'clock; it was slack, and he merely said: "May the Almighty bless you all." Nor did he falter in the least when he tied the cap, shifted the rope, and took his handkerchief from his neck.

Great apprehensions were entertained that it would be necessary to tie him up a second time. The noose slipped twice and he fell down about eighteen inches. At last his feet almost touched the ground, but his excessive weight, which occasioned this accident, speedily relieved him from pain. He expired in a moment, and without any struggle.

FRANCIS SMITH

Condemned to Death on 13th of January, 1804, for the Murder of the supposed Hammersmith Ghost, but pardoned soon afterwards

SUPERSTITION of old, in the beginning of the enlightened year 1804, was revived in the vicinity of Hammersmith, near London, where the inhabitants were possessed with an opinion that a ghost haunted their neighbourhood; but the fancied spectre was proved to be composed of human flesh and blood, which were unfortunately mangled and shed unto death by the unhappy man whose case is now before us.

The wanton performer of the pretended spirit merited severe punishment, for, with the frogs to the mischievous boys who were pelting them with stones, the victims might

truly have said: "It is *sport* to you, but death to us." Besides the poor man who lost his life, being mistaken for this mimic ghost, Francis Smith, who was an excise officer, was condemned to die for the murder.

One poor woman in particular, when crossing near the churchyard about ten o'clock at night, beheld something, as she described, rise from the tombstones. The figure was very tall and very white. She attempted to run; but the ghost soon overtook her, and pressed her in his arms, when she fainted; in which situation she remained some hours, till discovered by some neighbours, who kindly led her home, when she took to her bed, from which, alas, she never rose.

Neither man, woman nor child could pass that way, and the report was that it was the apparition of a man who had cut his throat in the neighbourhood a year before. Several lay in wait different nights for the ghost; but there were so many by-lanes and paths leading to Hammersmith that he was always sure of being on that which was unguarded, and every night played off his tricks, to the terror of the passengers.

Francis Smith, doubtless incensed at the unknown person who was in the habit of assuming this supernatural character, and thus frightening the superstitious inhabitants of the village, rashly determined on watching for, and shooting, the ghost; when, unfortunately, he shot a poor innocent man, Thomas Millwood, a bricklayer, who was in a white dress, the usual habiliment of his occupation. This rash act was judged as wilful murder by the coroner's inquest, and Smith was accordingly committed to jail. He took his trial at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, 13th of January, when Mr John Locke, wine-merchant, living in Hammersmith, stated that on the 3rd of January, about half-past ten in the evening, he met the prisoner, who told him he had shot a man whom he believed to be the pretended ghost of Hammersmith. A rumour of a ghost walking about at night had prevailed for a considerable time. He went with the prisoner, in company with Mr Stowe and a watchman, up

Limekiln Lane to Black Lion Lane, where the deceased was lying, apparently dead.

The witness and Mr Stowe consulted together upon what was proper to be done, and they directly sent for the high constable. The body had no appearance of life; there was a shot in the left jaw. The prisoner was much agitated. The witness told him the consequences likely to result from his misconduct. The prisoner replied that he fired, but did not know the person whom he had shot; he also said that, before he fired, he spoke twice to the deceased, but received no answer.

Mr Const, for the prisoner, cross-examined this witness. For five weeks previous to this melancholy catastrophe the ghost had been the subject of general conversation in Hammersmith. He had never seen it. The dress in which the ghost was said to appear corresponded with that worn by the deceased, being white. The deceased had on white trousers, down to his shoes; a white apron round him, and a flannel jacket on his body. The ghost sometimes appeared in white, and frequently in a calf's skin.

The prisoner was so agitated when the witness met him that he could scarcely speak. The deceased, after the prisoner called out, continued to advance towards him, which augmented his fear so much that he fired. The witness described the evening as very dark. Black Lion Lane was very dark at all times, being between hedges; and on that evening it was so very obscure that a person on one side of the road could not distinguish an object on the other.

The prisoner, when he first mentioned the accident, expressed to the witness his wish that he would take him into custody, or send for some person to do so. The prisoner was a man mild and humane, and of a generous temper.

William Girdle, the watchman, in Hammersmith, after stating that he went to the spot with Mr Locke, described the posture in which the deceased was found. He was lying on his back, stretched out, and quite dead. On his cross-examination the witness said that he had seen the supposed ghost himself on the Thursday before, being the 29th of

December. It was covered with a sheet or large tablecloth. He encountered it opposite the fourth milestone, and pursued it, but without success, as the spirit pulled off the sheet and ran. The alarm had been very great for six weeks or two months, and many people had been terribly frightened. He knew the prisoner, and he was nothing like a cruel man.

Anne Millwood, sister to the deceased, said her brother was in his usual working dress. She had heard great talk of a ghost stalking up and down the neighbourhood, all in white, with *horns* and *glass eyes*, but she did not know that anybody had ever watched in order to discover and detect the impostor.

For the defence the prisoner's counsel called Mrs Fullbrook, mother-in-law to the deceased. She said that on the Saturday evening before his death he told her that two ladies and a gentleman had taken fright at him, as he was coming down the terrace, thinking he was the ghost. He told them he was no more a ghost than any of them, and asked the gentleman if he wished for a punch in the head. The witness advised the deceased in future to put on a greatcoat, in order that he might not encounter any danger.

Thomas Groom was called to prove that some supernatural being actually visited the town of Hammersmith. He said he was servant to Mr Burgess, a brewer, and that as he and a fellow-servant were going through the churchyard one night, something, which he did not see, caught hold of him by the throat.

A number of witnesses were then called to the prisoner's character, which they described as mild and gentle in the extreme.

The Lord Chief Baron, in his address to the jury, said that, however disgusted the jury might feel in their own minds with the abominable person guilty of the misdemeanour of terrifying the neighbourhood, still the prisoner had no right to construe such misdemeanour into a capital offence, or to conclude that a man dressed in white was a ghost. It was his own opinion, and was confirmed by those of his learned brethren on the bench, that if the facts stated in evidence

were credible, the prisoner had committed murder. In this case there was a deliberate carrying of a loaded gun, which the prisoner concluded he was entitled to fire, but which he really was not; and he did fire it, with a rashness which the law did not excuse.

The jury retired for above an hour, and returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter.

On hearing this verdict, it was stated by the Bench that such a judgment could not be received in this case, for it ought to be either a verdict of murder or of acquittal. If the jury believed the facts, there was no extenuation that could be admitted; for supposing that the unfortunate man was the individual really meant to have been shot, the prisoner would have been guilty of murder. Even with respect to civil processes: if an officer of justice used a deadly weapon it was murder if he occasioned death by it, even although he had a right to apprehend the person he had so killed.

Mr Justice Rooke said: "The Court have no hesitation whatever with regard to the law, and therefore the verdict must be 'guilty of murder,' or 'a total acquittal from want of evidence.'"

Mr Justice Lawrence said: "You have heard the opinion of the whole Court is settled as to the law on this point, it is therefore unnecessary for me to state mine in particular. Upon every point of view this case is, in the eye of the law, a murder, if it be proved by the facts. Whether it has or not is for you to determine, and return your verdict accordingly. The law has been thus stated by Justice Foster and all the most eminent judges."

The recorder said: "I perfectly agree with the learned judges who have spoken. Gentlemen, consider your verdict again."

The jury then turned round and, after a short consultation, returned their verdict "guilty."

The Lord Chief Baron said: "The case, gentlemen, shall be reported to his Majesty immediately."

The recorder then passed sentence of death on the

prisoner in the usual form; which was, that he should be executed on Monday next, and his body given to the surgeons to be dissected.

The prisoner, who was dressed in a suit of black clothes, was then twenty-nine years of age, a short but well-made man, with dark hair and eyebrows; and the pallid hue of his countenance during the whole trial, together with the signs of contrition which he exhibited, commanded the sympathy of every spectator. When the dreadful word "guilty" was pronounced he sank into a state of stupefaction exceeding despair. He at last retired, supported by the servants of Mr Kirby.

The Lord Chief Baron having told the jury, after they had given their verdict, that he would immediately report the case to his Majesty, was so speedy in this humane office that a "respite during pleasure" arrived at the Old Bailey before seven o'clock, and on the 25th he received a pardon, on condition of being imprisoned one year.

ANN HURLE

Executed before Newgate, 8th of February, 1804, for Forgery, at the Age of Twenty-two

ANN Hurle, only twenty-two years of age, was on Saturday, 14th of January, 1804, capitally indicted at the Old Bailey for having forged and counterfeited, uttered and published, as true, in the City of London, a letter of attorney, with the name of Benjamin Allin thereunto subscribed, purporting to have been signed, sealed and delivered by a gentleman of that name, residing in Greenwich, in the county of Kent, a proprietor of certain annuities and stock, transferable at the Bank of England, called "Three per Cent. Reduced Annuities," for the purpose of transferring the sum of five hundred pounds of said annuities to herself, with an intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, against the statute.

George Francillon, a stockbroker, said he was acquainted

with the prisoner at the bar for five or six months, and recollected her applying to him on Saturday, the 10th of December, at the Bank Coffee-House, requesting him to take out a power of attorney for the sale of five hundred pounds Reduced. She told the witness it was to be taken out of the stock of a Mr Benjamin Allin, of Greenwich, who, she said, was an elderly gentleman; she also said she had been brought up in his family from her infancy, and that her aunt had been for many years housekeeper and nurse to Mr Allin. The prisoner then said that this five hundred pounds stock was a gift Mr Allin had made to her for her great attention to him during her stay at his house. The witness, on hearing this, took out a power of attorney from the bank office, and delivered it to her that same day, when he desired her to take it to Greenwich, in order to get it executed. She told the witness she would have it executed that afternoon and return with it on the Monday morning, in order to transfer the stock into her own name. She accordingly brought back the deed on Monday morning, at eleven o'clock, executed in the name of Benjamin Allin. He then desired her to wait a few minutes till he went to the proper office at the bank, in order to have the power passed; and as she had said she was inclined to sell the stock, he told her he would inquire the price of it in the market and let her know. Having left the power of attorney at the bank, he returned in about twenty minutes afterwards, and the clerk of that office told him that Mr Bateman, the clerk who passed the powers, desired to see him. He accordingly went, in company with the prisoner, to the gentleman, who said that the signature of Benjamin Allin differed from that gentleman's handwriting which they had at the bank. The witness told Mr Bateman he did not know Mr Allin, but only Ann Hurle, who wished the power of attorney. She, on being questioned by Mr Bateman, said she had been brought up in Mr Allin's family from a child, that he was a very old man—nearly ninety years of age—in a very infirm state of health, and, if the handwriting differed, she could account for it in no other way but by his not

being accustomed to writing, which might occasion some difference in the signature; but if it was necessary she said she would take out a fresh power of attorney.

Benjamin Allin said he resided at Greenwich, and had a person of the name of Jane Hurle in his service, and knew Ann Hurle, her niece, but had not been much in her company, nor in any company whatever. On being shown the power of attorney, he deposed that it was not in his handwriting, and that he had not signed any paper since the first day of December.

The prisoner was called on for her defence, but she made none, saying she left it to her counsel. No witnesses were adduced to speak in her behalf. She was much affected, and fainted twice during the trial. The jury, after deliberating a short time, returned a verdict of guilty.

The unfortunate Ann Hurle was ordered for execution. She was brought out of the debtors' door in Newgate at eight o'clock. The mode of execution by the drop having been for the time changed to that of the common gallows, she was put into a cart and drawn to the place of execution, in the widest part of the Old Bailey, where she expiated her offences in penitence and prayer. When the halter was fixed she seemed inclined to speak, but her strength evidently failed, and she was incapable. Her appearance, upon the whole, excited emotions of compassion among the spectators, who at last became so clamorous that the sheriff, in a loud voice, described to them the impropriety of their behaviour; after which they were more silent. The cap was then pulled over the face of the sufferer and the cart drawn away. As it was going she gave a faint scream, and for two or three minutes after she was suspended she appeared to be in great agony, moving her hands up and down frequently.

ROBERT ASLETT

Assistant Cashier of the Bank of England. Condemned to Death for embezzling Exchequer Bills to a Large Amount, entrusted to his Charge, and respited during his Majesty's Pleasure, 18th of November, 1804

ROBERT ASLETT had been in the employ of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England for about twenty-five years, and had conducted himself faithfully and meritoriously until he had been induced, unfortunately, to speculate in the funds; and, in dereliction to that duty and fidelity which he owed to his employers, had subtracted immense sums from the property entrusted to his care.

In the year 1799, having gone through the necessary and regular gradations, he was appointed one of the cashiers. It was a part of the business of the bank to purchase Exchequer bills, to supply the exigencies of Government; the purchases were entrusted to the care of a very meritorious and excellent officer (Mr A. Newland), but on account of that gentleman's growing infirmities—he having been fifty-eight years in the service of the bank—the management was left wholly under the care and direction of Mr Aslett. These purchases were made of Mr Goldsmid, by means of Mr Templeman, the broker. It was usual to make out the bills in the name of the person from whom they were purchased, and then deliver them to Mr Aslett to examine, and he entered them in what is called the bought-book, and then gave orders to the cashiers to reimburse the broker. The bills were afterwards deposited in a strong chest kept in Mr Newland's room, and when they had increased in bulk by subsequent purchases they were selected by Mr Aslett, tied up in large bundles, and carried to the parlour—that is to say, the room in which the directors held their meetings—accompanied by one of the clerks with the original book of entry, when the directors in waiting received the envelopes and deposited them in the strong iron chest, which had

three keys, and to which none but the directors had access; nor could they be brought forth until the course of payment, unless by consent of at least two of the directors. Therefore it was not possible for them to find their way into the hands of the public or the money market unless embezzled for that purpose.

On the 26th of February, 1804, Mr Aslett, according to this practice, made up three envelopes of Exchequer bills, the first containing bills to the amount of one hundred thousand pounds; the second, two hundred thousand pounds, and the third, four hundred thousand pounds; making in the whole seven hundred thousand pounds. These were, or in fact ought to have been, carried into the parlour and signed as being received by two of the directors, Messrs Paget and Smith; one of these bundles —namely, that containing the two hundred thousand pounds' worth of bills—was withdrawn. The confidence which the Governor and Company placed in Mr Aslett had enabled him to conceal the transaction from the 26th of February to the 9th of April, and it was next to an impossibility that it should be discovered, as no period of payment had arrived; but on that day, in consequence of an application made by Mr Bish, the whole was discovered.

On the 16th of March Mr Aslett went to that gentleman and requested he would purchase for him fifty thousand pounds' Consols., to which request no objection was made, provided he deposited the requisite securities. The fluctuation of the market at that time was six per cent., and Aslett, in order to cover any deficit, deposited with Mr Bish three Exchequer bills, Nos. 341, 1060, 2694, which he knew had been previously deposited in the bank. From some circumstances, and from his general knowledge of the whole of the business of the funds, Mr Bish suspected all was not right, and accordingly went to the bank, where an investigation took place, at which Mr B. Watson, one of the directors, was present. Mr Newland was sent for and asked whether any of the Exchequer bills could, by possibility, get into the market again from the bank. He

answered in the negative, observing they were a dormant security. The same question was put to Mr Aslett, and the same answer given by him. It was found necessary to tell him that the bills in question, which could be proved to have been in the bank, had found their way into the money-market; and at the same time it was observed that he had made purchases, to a large amount, of stock with the bills. This was acknowledged by him; but he said he had done so for a friend named Hosier, residing at the west end of the town, and he declared they were not bank property, nor to be found in the bought-book.

The directors, however, were not satisfied on this point, and he was immediately secured. His trial was, however, postponed till July, as it had occurred to those employed in the prosecution that the bills in question had been issued with an informality in them, not having the signature of the Auditor of the Exchequer. They were aware of the objections that might be taken, and as Parliament was not then sitting it was thought advisable to postpone the trial, lest it might create an alarm in the money market. The fact was no sooner known than a Bill was brought into Parliament for remedying those defects, and to render the bills valid.

On Friday, the 8th of July, 1804, Mr Aslett's trial commenced. Mr Garrow, on the part of the prosecution, stated the facts above mentioned; but when about to call witnesses to give evidence, Mr Erskine insisted that the Exchequer bills, which the prisoner stood charged with having stolen, were not good bills till the Act of Parliament had made them so, and consequently that they were pieces of waste-paper when stolen. Chief Baron Macdonald, Mr Justice Rooke and Mr Justice Lawrence concurred that the present indictment could not be maintained; and the jury were accordingly desired to acquit the prisoner. He was afterwards tried on nine other indictments, but the evidence being the same, Mr Garrow applied to the Court to detain him in custody, it being, he said, the intention of the bank directors to issue a civil process against him for

one hundred thousand pounds and upwards, the moneys paid for the bills which he had converted to his own use.

On Saturday, 17th of September, at a quarter before ten o'clock, Mr Aslett was again brought to the bar of the Old Bailey, before Baron Chambre and Mr Justice Le Blanc. The prisoner was attended by four or five gentlemen, who continued in the dock during the whole time of the trial.

Three indictments were read, with two counts in each. The three indictments charged the prisoner with secreting and embezzling three notes, and, after considerable evidence had been given, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

Before sentence of death was pronounced he was wretchedly dejected. When he was asked what he had to say why judgment of death should not be passed upon him he answered: "Nothing; I resign myself to my fate." He never looked up the whole time the recorder was addressing him, and left the court under great perturbation of mind. A report of his case was not made to the King by the recorder till the 18th of November, when he was respited during his Majesty's pleasure.

RICHARD HAYWOOD

A Violent and Hardened Sinner, who was executed along with John Tennant, before Newgate, 30th of April, 1805, for Robbery

THIS Richard Haywood, *alias* Reginald Harwood, was indicted for having stolen two bolsters and two pillows, valued at ten shillings, the property of Richard Crabtree; and for cutting, with a certain sharp instrument, Benjamin Chantry, in order to prevent his lawful apprehension of him for the said felony.

Miss Jenkins, cousin to Mrs Crabtree, deposed that on Saturday evening, the 20th of October, 1804, she and Mrs Wilson, in consequence of some suspicions which they had, sat watching in Mr Williamson's house, which was opposite to Mr Crabtree's, No. 11 Thayer Street, Manchester

Square. They saw two men go into Mr Crabtree's house with a key. Thereupon Mrs Wilson went downstairs, and the witness observed her cross over and knock at Mr Crabtree's door. She saw the door open, but nothing else.

Mr Williamson said that he followed Mrs Wilson, and was, when she knocked at Mr Crabtree's door, close to the step of it. He saw two men come out of the house; one ran to the left, who, he believed, made his escape; the other (the prisoner at the bar) made a blow at Mrs Wilson, and ran to the right. The witness cried: "Stop thief!"—and he had not got above twenty yards before he was stopped by a gentleman. The prisoner fell down in the middle of the street, but got away from the gentleman. The witness never lost sight of him till he was stopped by several people in Marylebone Lane.

Henry Holford, a merchant, in Crutched Friars, said that as he was passing through Thayer Street, Manchester Square, he saw the prisoner come out of the house, No. 11, and make a violent blow at a lady. He immediately ran towards Hind Street, and came so close to the witness that he seized him. He struggled, and made a blow at the witness's head, which he avoided, and the prisoner fell. The witness saw something in his hand, which he afterwards understood to be an iron crow. The witness returned the blow, and the prisoner fell. He got up again, and turned, and escaped for a moment. The witness pursued him down two small streets, and kept sight of him till he saw Chantry at the door of his own house. The witness called out to him: "Stop thief!" Chantry laid hold of him immediately. The witness told Chantry to take care, for he had an iron crow in his hand. Chantry looked round, and a few moments afterwards the prisoner lifted up his hand and made a violent blow at him with the iron. He was then taken to the watch-house, and the iron crow was delivered to the officer.

After conviction he behaved with shocking depravity. His fellow-sufferer was John Tennant, who had been ordered for execution along with Haywood. When the keeper went to warn them of their approaching execution they behaved

in so determined and riotous a manner that it was necessary to secure them with irons to the floor. Haywood, who was supposed to have procured a knife from his wife when she was permitted to see him, rushed upon the keeper, during the altercation, and would have stabbed him with it if he had not left the cell. They uttered the most horrid imprecations; and, after declaring in cant terms that they would die game, threatened to murder the ordinary if he attempted to visit them. Their behaviour in other respects was so abandoned that the necessary attendants were deterred from further interference, and left them to the dreadful fate which awaited them.

When told it was time to be conducted to the scaffold, Haywood cheerfully attended the summons; he first ate some bread and cheese, and drank a quantity of coffee. Before he departed, however, he called out in a loud voice to the prisoners, who were looking through the upper windows at him: "Farewell, my lads; I am just going off. God bless you." "We are sorry for you," replied the prisoners. "I want none of your pity," rejoined Haywood; "keep your snivelling till it be your own turn." Immediately he arrived on the scaffold, which he ran upon with great agility, with a loud laugh he gave the mob three cheers, introducing each with a "Hip, ho!" While the cord was being prepared he continued hallooing to the mob: "How are you? Well, here goes!" He then gave another halloo, and kicked off his shoes among the spectators, many of whom were deeply affected at the obduracy of his conduct. Soon afterwards the platform dropped.

HENRY PERFECT

A most plausible Begging-Letter Swindler, transported to Botany Bay, in April, 1805

HENRY PERFECT was the son of a clergyman in Leicestershire, and had been a lieutenant in the 69th Regiment of Foot. He was twice married, and had had considerably property with each wife. Being at length found out

in his impositions, which he carried out by means of begging letters, he was indicted on the statute of George II. for obtaining money under false pretences from the Earl of Clarendon. His trial, which occupied the whole of the day, and excited universal attention, came on at the Middlesex Sessions, Hicks's Hall, 27th of October, 1804. Mr Gurney, in a very able and eloquent address, expatiated on the enormous guilt of the prisoner, who had personated the various and imaginary characters of the Rev. Mr Paul, the Rev. Daniel Bennet, Mrs Grant, Mrs Smith, etc., and who also had had the art of varying his handwriting on every occasion, having kept notes in what hand every original letter had been written, with what kind of wafer or wax it was sealed, etc. He likewise kept his book of accounts, as regular as any merchant in London.

When his lodgings were searched a book was found, in his own handwriting, giving an account of money received (by which it appeared that he had plundered the public to the amount of four hundred and eighty-eight pounds within two years), with a list of the donors' names, among whom were the Duchess of Beaufort, Lord Willoughby de Broke, Lord Littleton, Lady Howard, Lady Mary Duncan, Bishops of London, Salisbury and Durham, Earls of Kingston and Radnor, Lord C. Spencer, Hon. Mrs Fox, etc.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the Court sentenced him to seven years' transportation. He was sent to Botany Bay in April, 1805.

ELIZABETH BARBER *ALIAS* DALY

Who smoked her Pipe after murdering a Pensioner. Executed near Maidstone, 25th of May, 1805

ELIZABETH BARBER was born in King Street, Deptford, and she married an honest waterman, by whom she bore children. Barber's good conduct obtained him an excellent situation in the custom-house, while his wife was ruining him by her flagitious conduct. She

was soon beyond all control. Once she stabbed a man of the name of Thomas Seerles, for which she was indicted, and imprisoned at Maidstone for twelve calendar months. This, however, proved no check to her fury, for, having formed an intimacy with John Dennis Daly, a poor college-man, at Greenwich, she murdered him, on the 14th of October, 1804, by stabbing him in the breast with a knife, for which she was sent to Maidstone Jail.

Ann Ward stated that she lived in the room under the prisoner's, at Greenwich; she heard a trampling over her head, as though of persons scuffling. This was half-an-hour before she heard the cry of "Murder!" and she heard Mrs Daly, the prisoner, say: "I'll do it—I'll do it! I will not put up with it!" About half-an-hour afterwards she heard the prisoner open the door and cry out: "Murder! Bloody murder! My husband has stabbed himself, and is dead enough. Will nobody come to my assistance?" The witness called the woman who lived underneath in the kitchen, and both went upstairs with the prisoner. When they got up, they saw Daly sitting in a chair with his head hanging on his left shoulder; the bosom of his shirt was open, and the wound on his breast was washed very clean. The prisoner was all the time smoking her pipe very unconcernedly, merely observing that he had stabbed himself.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the learned judge immediately pronounced sentence of death. She was aged fifty-three. When sentence of death was passed upon her, she begged her body of the judge for her children.

Her dress on the day of execution (which took place on 25th of March, 1805, on Pennenden Heath) was very decent; and from the time of her quitting the prison to the fatal drop she never uttered a sentence. Before leaving the prison, however, she made an ample confession of her guilt.

WILLIAM CUBITT

Executed in November, 1805, for stealing valuable Jewellery from the Earl of Mansfield

WILLIAM CUBITT was in the service of the Earl of Mansfield, and was convicted of stealing a gold snuff-box, set with brilliants, the property of that nobleman.

Lady Mansfield appeared upon his trial, and stated that the prisoner lived in their service, and was chiefly employed by her as groom of the chambers. She discharged him by Lord Mansfield's directions, who was then at Ramsgate. Some time between the 26th and 30th of July she had the snuff-box in question in her care. It was blue enamel on gold, with a miniature of the Emperor Joseph II. on the top, set round with brilliants. The last time she recollected seeing it was some time in May, before they went to Caen Wood. She kept it in a cabinet, in the organ-room, at their house in Portland Place. She knew nothing of the loss of it until they received the magistrate's letter at Ramsgate, and then, upon a search, she found that the box had been lost.

J. Dobree, jeweller, stated that on the 15th of August the prisoner came to his house and wanted to purchase a gold chain which was in the window. Having agreed for the price of it, he asked if he would take old gold in return. Being answered in the affirmative, he produced the fragments of a snuff-box, which the witness saw had been of curious workmanship. He called his journeyman aside and conversed with him for a moment on the subject, and then asked the prisoner where he had got that gold. He replied that he had got it from a servant. The witness, in answer, said he was sure it was no servant's property, and that he should not go away until he had given an account of it. The prisoner then snatched up the pieces of gold that lay upon the counter and ran out of the shop. The witness followed him, overtook, and apprehended him. He was immediately carried to Marlborough Street office.

Foy and Lovatt, the two police officers belonging to

Marlborough Street office, said that the prisoner, on his examination, told the magistrate he lived at No. 21 Bolsover Street. They, in consequence, went to search his lodgings. They found in a drawer twelve brilliants, the crystal of a miniature picture, and under the fire, half-burned, discovered the remains of a miniature painting.

Lord Mansfield examined the broken pieces of gold found on the prisoner, and declared he was convinced, from the workmanship, that they were part of the box he had lost. The brilliants were the same sort as those round the miniature, but he could not swear that they were the same. He was positive, however, to the remains of the miniature. The face was destroyed; but the breast, with the Austrian orders, remained visible. He added that the box was a gift from the late Emperor Joseph II. to his great-uncle, on leaving Vienna. He did not know the exact value, but he presumed somewhere about two hundred guineas.

The jury found the prisoner guilty.

He and two other malefactors were executed, pursuant to their sentence, on Wednesday morning, 13th of November, 1805, at half-past eight o'clock, at the usual place in the Old Bailey.

THOMAS PICTON, Esq.

Late Governor of Trinidad. Convicted 24th of February, 1806, of applying Torture, in order to extort Confession from a Girl

THE indictment on which Governor Picton was brought to trial charged him with inflicting torture, in order to extort confession of Louisa Calderon, one of his Majesty's subjects in the island of Trinidad, in the West Indies.

Mr Garrow addressed the jury, and said that although he should acquit himself zealously of the obligation imposed upon him to bring to light, and condign punishment, an offence so flagrant as that charged upon the defendant, yet much more happy would he be to find that there was no ground upon which the charge could be supported, and

that the British character was not stained by the adoption of so cruel a measure as that alleged in this prosecution.

"The island of Trinidad," added Mr Garrow, "surrendered to that illustrious character, Sir Ralph Abercromby, in the year 1797; and he entered into a stipulation, by which he conceded to the inhabitants the continuance of their laws, and appointed a new governor, until his Majesty's pleasure should be known, or, in other words, until the King of England, in his paternal character, should extend to this new acquisition to his empire all the sacred privileges of the laws of England. I have the authority of the defendant himself for stating that the system of jurisprudence adopted under the Spanish monarch, for his colonial establishments, was benignant, and adapted to the protection of the subject, previous to the surrender of this island to the British arms.

"In December, 1801, when this crime was perpetrated, Louisa Calderon was of the tender age of ten or eleven years. At that early period she had been induced to live with a person of the name of Pedro Ruiz, as his mistress; and although it appears to us very singular that she should sustain such a situation at that time of life, yet it is a fact that, in this climate, women often become mothers at twelve years old, and are in a state of concubinage if, from their condition, they could not form a more honourable connection. While she lived with Ruiz she was engaged in an intrigue with Carlos Gonzalez, the pretended friend of the former, who robbed him of a quantity of dollars. Gonzalez was apprehended, and she also, as some suspicion fell upon her in consequence of the affair. She was taken before the justice, as we, in our language, should denominate him, and, in his presence, she denied having any concern in the business. The magistrate felt that his powers were at an end; and whether the object of her denial were to protect herself, or her friend, is not material to the question before you. The extent of his authority being thus limited, this officer of justice resorted to General Picton; and I have to produce, in the handwriting of the defendant, this bloody sentence: 'Inflict the Torture upon Louisa Calderon.' You will believe

there was no delay in proceeding to its execution. The girl was informed in the jail that if she did not confess she would be subjected to the torture; that under the process she might probably lose her limbs or her life, but the calamity would be on her own head, for if she would confess she would not be required to endure it. While her mind was in the state of agitation this notice produced, her fears were aggravated by the introduction of two or three negresses into her prison, who were to suffer under the same experiment as a means of extorting confession of witchcraft. In this situation of alarm and horror the young woman persisted in her innocence: the punishment was inflicted, improperly called picketing, which is a military punishment, perfectly distinct. This is not picketing, but the torture. It is true the soldier exposed to this does stand with his foot on a picket, or sharp piece of wood, but, in mercy to him, a means of reposing on the rotundus major, or interior of the arm, is afforded. This practice, I hope, will not in future be called 'Picketing,' but 'Pictoning,' that it may be recognised by the dreadful appellation which belongs to it. Her position may be easily described. The great toe was lodged upon a sharp piece of wood, while the opposite wrist was suspended in a pulley, and the other hand and foot were lashed together. Another time the horrid ceremony was repeated, with this difference, that her feet were changed."

[The learned counsel here produced a drawing in water-colours, in which the situation of the sufferer, and the magistrate, executioner and secretary, was described. He then proceeded:]

"It appears to me that the case, on the part of the prosecution, will be complete when these facts are established in evidence; but I am to be told that though the highest authority in this country could not practise this on the humblest individual, yet that by the laws of Spain it can be perpetrated in the island of Trinidad. I should venture to assert that if it were written in characters impossible to be understood, that if it were the acknowledged law of Trinidad, it could be no justification of a British governor. Nothing

could vindicate such a person but the law of imperious necessity, to which we must all submit. It was his duty to impress upon the minds of the people of that colony the great advantages they would derive from the benign influence of British jurisprudence; and that, in consequence of being received within the pale of this Government, torture would be for ever banished from the island. It is therefore not sufficient for him to establish this sort of apology; it is required of him to show that he complied with the institutions under the circumstances of irresistible necessity. This governor ought to have been aware that the torture is not known in England; and that it never will be, never can be, tolerated in this country.

"The trial by rack is utterly unknown to the law of England, though once, when the Dukes of Exeter and Suffolk and other Ministers of Henry VI. had laid a design to introduce the civil law into this kingdom, as the ruling government, for a beginning thereof they erected a rack for torture, which was called in derision the Duke of Exeter's daughter, and still remains in the Tower of London, where it was occasionally used as an engine of state, not of law, more than once in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But when, upon the assassination of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, by Felton, it was proposed in the Privy Council to put the assassin to the rack, in order to discover his accomplices, the judges, being consulted, declared unanimously, to their own honour and the honour of the English law, that no such proceeding was allowable by the laws of England."

Louisa Calderon was then called. She appeared to be about eighteen years of age, had a very interesting countenance, being a mulatto or creole, and a very genteel appearance. She was dressed in white, with a turban of white muslin, tied on in the custom of the country. Her person was slender and graceful. She spoke English but very indifferently, and was examined by Mr Adam through the medium of a Spanish interpreter.

She deposed that she resided in the island of Trinidad in the year 1798, and lived in the house of Don Pedro

Ruiz, and remembered the robbery. She and her mother were taken up on suspicion, and brought before Governor Picton, who committed them to prison, under the escort of three soldiers. She was put into close confinement; but before she was taken there, the Governor said that if she did not confess who had stolen the money the hangman would have to deal with her. She knew Bagora, the magistrate, or Lord Mayor. He came to the prison and examined her on the subject of the robbery many times, and on different days. De Castro, the clerk of the magistrate, also attended, and took down her depositions.

She was then carried to the room where the torture was prepared. Here her left hand was tied up to the ceiling by a rope, with a pulley; her right hand was tied behind, so that her right foot and hand came in contact, while the extremity of her left foot rested on the wooden spike.

A drawing, representing the exact situation, with the negro holding the rope by which she was suspended, was then shown to her, when she gave a shudder, expressive of horror, which nothing but the most painful recollection of her situation could have excited; on which Mr Garrow expressed his concern that his Lordship was not in a position to witness this accidental, but conclusive, evidence of the fact.

Lord Ellenborough objected to the exhibition of this drawing to the jury until Mr Dallas, on the part of his client, permitted it to be shown to them. The examination then proceeded, and the remainder of Louisa Calderon's evidence corroborated the statement of Mr Garrow. She remained upon the spike three-quarters of an hour, and the next day twenty-two minutes. She swooned away each time before she was taken down, and was then put into irons, called the "Grillos," which were long pieces of iron, with two rings for the feet, fastened to the wall; and in this situation she remained eight months. A drawing of this instrument was also produced, which the witness said was an exact representation.

The effect from this picketing was excruciating pain;

her wrists and ankles were much swollen, and the former still bore the marks. In reply to a question by Lord Ellenborough, she said her feet were without shoes and stockings.

The jailer, Bagora the magistrate, Francisco de Castro, and Raphael, an *alguazil*, with the executioner, were present at these picketings.

Don Juan Montes said that he was acquainted with the handwriting of the defendant, and proved the document containing the order of the torture, expressed in these terms :

"Aplicase la question a Louisa Calderon.[1]

(*Signed*) "THOMAS PICTON."

After some observations from Mr Dallas, which were answered by Mr Garrow, the Lord Chief Justice ruled that the application of the Alcayde Beggerrat, which led to the issue of this order, should be read.

Mr Lowton then read the representation of this officer, advising that slight torture should be applied, stating that his own authority was incompetent to do it without the order of the Governor, and giving the result of the proceedings in the course of the examinations Louisa Calderon had undergone. The instrument was countersigned by Francisco de Castro.

Mr Dallas, for the defendant, rested his defence upon the following statements :—

First. By the law of Spain, in the present instance, torture was directed ; and being bound to administer that law, he was vindicated in its application.

Second. The order for the torture, if not unlawfully, was not maliciously, issued.

Third. If it were unlawful, yet if the order were erroneously or mistakenly issued, it was a complete answer to a criminal charge.

The learned counsel entered at considerable length into these positions, during which he compared the law of Spain, as it prevailed in Trinidad, with the law of England, as it

[1] *I.e.* put Louisa Calderon to the torture or the question.

existed in some of our own islands; and he contended that the conduct of General Picton was gentleness and humanity compared with what might be practised with impunity under the authority of the British Government.

The jury found there was no such law existing in the island of Trinidad as that of torture at the time of the surrender of that island to the British.

Lord Ellenborough said: "Then, gentlemen, General Picton cannot derive any protection from a supposed law, after you have found that no such law remained in that island at the surrender of it, and when he became its Governor; therefore your verdict should be that he is guilty."

By the direction of Lord Ellenborough they therefore found the defendant guilty.

Mr Dallas moved, on the 25th of April, for a new trial. He stated that the defendant was a person of respectability and character in his Majesty's service, as Governor of the island of Trinidad. He solicited for a new trial upon the following grounds:—

First. The infamous character of the girl, who lived in open prostitution with Pedro Ruiz, and who had been privy to a robbery committed upon her paramour by Carlos Gonzalez; and when a complaint laid against her had been brought before a magistrate, she, refusing to confess, had been ordered to be tortured.

Second. That Governor Picton, who condemned her to this torture, did not proceed from any motives of malice, but from a conviction that the right of torture was sanctioned by the laws of Trinidad; and that he was rooted in this opinion by a reference to the legal written authorities in that island.

Third. That whatever his conduct might be, it was certainly neither personal malice nor disposition to tyranny, but resulted, if it should prove to be wrong, from a misapprehension of the laws of Trinidad.

Fourth. That one of the principal witnesses in this trial, M. Vargass, had brought forward a book, entitled *Recopilation*

des Leys des Indes, expressly compiled for the Spanish colonies, which did not authorise torture. The defendant had no opportunity of ever seeing that book, but it had been purchased by the British Institution at the sale of the Marquis of Lansdowne's library subsequent to his trial; and, having consulted it, it appeared that where that code was silent upon some criminal cases, recourse was always to be had to the laws of Old Spain, and these laws, of course, sanctioned the infliction of torture.

The Court, after some consideration, granted the rule to show cause for a new trial.

RICHARD PATCH

Executed on the Top of the New Prison, in the Borough of Southwark, 8th of April, 1806, for Murder, after a Trial at which Accommodation was provided for the Royal Family

RICHARD PATCH was born in the year 1770, at the village of Heavytree, Devonshire, within two miles of Exeter. His father was a smuggler, and was noted for a fierceness and intrepidity peculiar to this class of men. Many feats were related of his dexterity and enterprise in eluding and daring the officers of the excise, but he was at length laid hold of by the officers of the revenue, condemned in heavy fines, and sentenced to imprisonment for twelve months in the New Jail at Exeter. When the period of his confinement was at an end he did not, however, desert his station in the prison, but was engaged by the keeper as one of the turnkeys. In this situation he died, leaving several children, the eldest of whom was Richard, who became a farmer, uniting with his own paternal estate a small farm which he rented. It seems, however, that he farmed with little success, as he was soon obliged to mortgage his estate for more than one half of its value. Some years, however, were passed at Ebmere, when an accident drove him from his home. He went to London and immediately presented

himself at Mr Blight's, with whom his sister, at that time, lived as a menial servant.

Richard had not been long in the service of Mr Blight when he, naturally, cast a look towards his estate in Devonshire, and commenced a journey into that county for the purpose of making an arrangement respecting it. Accordingly, in 1804, he disposed of his land; for which, having first been obliged to clear off every embarrassment, he received a net sum of three hundred and fifty pounds, two hundred and fifty of which Mr Blight received for the purpose hereafter mentioned, and the remaining hundred pounds passed through the hands of his bankers, whom he probably constituted as such upon the credit of this money.

The next year, 1805, on the 23rd of September, Mr Blight, who was induced to come to town by means of Mr Patch, during the absence of the latter was mortally wounded by a pistol, which was secretly fired at him, and which occasioned his death the next day. The case was particularly inquired into by A. Graham, Esq., the magistrate, who, suspecting Patch of the horrid murder of his friend and master, committed him to prison, and his trial came on at the Surrey Assizes, continued by adjournment to Horsemonger Lane, in the Borough, Saturday, 5th of April, 1806.

So great was the interest excited by the approaching investigation, that by five o'clock in the morning a vast concourse of the populace had surrounded the avenues to the sessions-house, Horsemonger Lane. On the opening of the court it was with the utmost difficulty that the law officers, and others whose appearance was necessary, could obtain an entrance. The persons of rank who obtained admission were the Dukes of Sussex, Cumberland and Orleans; Lords Portsmouth, Grantley, Cranley, Montford, William Russell, Deerhurst and G. Seymour; Sir John Frederick, Sir John Shelley, Sir Thomas Turton, Sir William Clayton, Sir J. Mawbey; Count Woronzow, the Russian Ambassador, and his secretary. The magistrates, who had met for that purpose the preceding Wednesday, had made

every accommodation that the court would admit of. It was floored and lined with matting, and the upper parts were covered with green baize. New railing was put up on the sides and rear, and a box was fitted up for the Royal Family.

The prisoner was conducted into court soon after nine o'clock, and took his station at the bar, attended by two or three friends. He was genteelly dressed in black, and perfect composure marked his countenance and manner. Precisely at ten o'clock Lord Chief Baron Macdonald took his seat on the bench, and the business of the commission was opened by arraigning the prisoner in the usual form. To the indictment he pleaded, in an audible voice, "Not guilty," and put himself on his country.

He peremptorily challenged three jurors; after which a jury were sworn, and the indictment read. Several witnesses were called, and the jury pronounced a verdict of guilty.

His Lordship then proceeded to pronounce the awful sentence of the law. He observed that the prisoner had begun his career of guilt in a system of fraud towards his friend; he had continued it in ingratitude, and had terminated it in blood. He then directed that he should be executed on Monday, and his body delivered for dissection.

CHARLES HEMMINGS AND GEORGE BEVAN

Bogus Bow Street Officers who robbed a Clergyman, and were executed, April, 1806

THESE two men were tried at the Old Bailey in April 1806, for robbery on the highway.

The Reverend Henry Craven Orde deposed that on the 24th of March, 1806, he was suddenly attacked by the prisoners in Southampton Street and robbed of his purse, containing a draft for eighteen pounds, a quantity of gold and silver, and several papers, in a dark lane opposite Southampton Street.

The ruffians stated themselves to be Bow Street officers, who were about to take charge of the clergyman for an

offence if he did not instantly give a sum in order to conceal it. Agitated by so sudden an attack on his person, and fearing the threats that were vociferated, he drew out his purse and gave the ruffians a seven-shilling piece. He then attempted to get away, when his purse, containing a draft for eighteen pounds drawn by his brother, the Rev. John Norman Orde, was snatched from him, and the robbers made off.

The next morning two persons went to the shop of Mr Lingham, tailor, No. 280 Strand, and purchased two surtout coats, for which they gave the eighteen-pound draft in payment. Bevan was the man who gave the eighteen-pound draft for the surtout coats; and his person having been described by Mr Lingham, Lovatt and Foy apprehended him on the 31st of March, at the dead wall, in Savile Row. One of the coats was found on Bevan.

Two days after the robbery Hemmings went to Mr Orde's and returned the red leather purse to the Rev. John Norman Orde, whom he mistook for the gentleman they had robbed, telling him he was a Bow Street officer, that he could swear to him at any time, and that he had, according to his advice, given the draft to enjoin secrecy. He afterwards said that he was not a Bow Street officer now, but had been one two months ago. He was detained by the prosecutor's brother, who sent the servant for a constable.

The jury found them guilty; and they were executed pursuant to their sentence.

JOHN DOCKE ROUVELETT *ALIAS* ROMNEY

After maliciously prosecuting a Woman he was executed at Ilchester, at the Summer Assizes, 1806, *in Somersetshire, for Forgery*

JOHN DOCKE ROUVELETT, a notorious swindler, was well known at Bath, where he passed for a West Indian of considerable fortune and family. He was about forty years of age, and had the appearance of a creole. He lived with a woman of the name of Elizabeth Barnet, who

passed for his wife. Having been arrested for debt, he was occasionally visited by this woman in the Fleet Prison, and was afterwards removed, by habeas corpus, into Somersetshire, on a charge of forgery.

Conscious that Elizabeth Barnet was the only witness against him, by whose evidence he could be convicted of the forgery, as well as of perjury, another case also pending—Rouvelett having falsely sworn a debt against Mr Dorant, of the York Hotel, Albemarle Street—he had her taken up for a supposed robbery, and charged her with stealing his purse in the Fleet Prison, containing forty guineas, half-a-guinea, and a valuable diamond. This case of singular atrocity came on at the Old Bailey, Saturday, 5th of July, 1806. The young woman was fashionably attired, and her appearance excited universal sympathy. Rouvelett was brought up from Ilchester Jail, ironed, to prosecute on his indictment. An application was made to put off the trial, on the affidavit of the prosecutor, which stated that some material witnesses at Liverpool had not had sufficient notice to attend. The object of this attempt was to prevent the woman appearing against him on his trial for forgery, and also to prevent her becoming a witness against him in the case of perjury, as already mentioned. The recorder saw through the transactions, which he described as the most foul and audacious that ever were attempted. He ordered the trial to proceed.

Rouvelett, who called himself a gentleman, stated that the prisoner was with him on the 11th of June, 1805, when he drew half-a-guinea from his purse and gave it to a messenger; after which he put the purse containing the property as stated in the indictment into the pocket of a surtout coat, which was hanging up in the room, in which was the ring, worth thirty pounds. There were no other persons in the room but the prisoner and himself, and in twenty minutes after she was gone he missed his property from the greatcoat pocket. He concluded that the money was safe, as the prisoner had gone to Dorant's hotel, Albemarle Street, and he did not suppose her capable of

robbing him. She, however, absconded, and he never saw her again until she was arrested at his suit, jointly with Dorant, in an action of trover for twenty thousand pounds for deeds, mortgages and bonds, bearing interest, for which bail was given. He had no opportunity of bringing her to justice for the alleged robbery, being himself a prisoner. (The recorder here remarked that the prosecutor could find the prisoner for a civil suit, although he could not find her for the criminal act.)

On the cross-examination of the prosecutor he said he was born at St Martin's, in the West Indies, and had been at most of the islands in that quarter. His uncle was a planter in the West Indies, and he lived on such means, whilst in England, as his family afforded him. He was brought up in Amsterdam, at the house of Mr Hope, banker; after which he became a lieutenant in the British Army (the 87th Regiment). He knew Mr Hope, of Harley Street, Cavendish Square, and Mr Hope knew him to be Mr Rouvelett, of St Martin's, for the two families had been closely connected for a hundred years. He lived in England on remittances from his uncle, in goods or bills, but he had no property of his own. Messrs Stephens & Boulton used to pay witness his remittances at Liverpool, but he could not tell who paid them in London. The recorder observed that the witness should not be pressed too far to give an account of himself, as he (the prisoner) stood charged with forgery. Being asked if he, the witness, had not said he would be revenged on the prisoner, as she was intimate with Dorant, and charge her with a felony, he answered that he did not recollect having said so; but the question being pressed, he partly acknowledged it. The purse, which was empty, witness acknowledged was found under the pillow, on the 12th of June, the day after the alleged robbery, by his room chum, a man of the name of Cummings. The prisoner was with him in prison after the 12th of June, although he had said she had absconded.

The recorder did not suffer the cause to be further proceeded in, and directed the jury to acquit the prisoner; he

also observed this was the most foul charge he had ever heard of.

The disgust of the persons in court as the fellow retired was manifested by hisses and groans in such a manner as baffled the efforts of the officers of justice for some time to suppress.

The trial of this malicious offender, who was thus happily disappointed in his views, came on at Wells, on Tuesday, 12th of August, 1806, before Baron Thompson, and excited uncommon interest throughout the county of Somerset.

The prisoner, John Docke Romney *alias* Rouvelett, was indicted for having feloniously and knowingly forged a certain bill of exchange, dated Grenada, 10th of November, 1804, for four hundred and twenty pounds sterling, payable at nine months' sight to the order of George Danley, Esq., and drawn by Willis & Co. on Messrs Child & Co. in London, with the forged acceptance of Messrs Child & Co. on the face thereof, with intent to defraud Mary Simeon.

Mr Burrough entered into the details of the case, which were afterwards substantiated by the evidence.

Mr Philip George, the younger clerk to the Mayor of Bath, stated that the bill in question was delivered to him by the Mayor of Bath, and that he had ever since kept the bill in his own custody.

Mrs Mary Simeon, dealer in laces, at Bath, deposed that in April, 1805, she lived at Bath. The prisoner came to her house on or about the 16th of March, 1805; he looked at several articles in which she dealt, bought a fan, paid for it, and said he should bring his wife with him in the afternoon. He accordingly did so, and brought Elizabeth Barnet as his wife, Mrs Romney. He asked whether Mrs Simeon had a Brussels veil of a hundred and fifty guineas' value. The witness answered she had not. He then bought two yards of lace, at four guineas a yard, and went away. This happened on a Saturday. The following Monday he came again, accompanied by his wife, looked at a lace cloak, at veils worth five and twenty guineas, and other goods, but did not buy any. In the course of the week he called

again, and proposed to purchase a quantity of goods from the witness, if she would take a bill of a long date, accepted by Messrs Child & Co., bankers, in London. Witness answered she had no objections to take a bill accepted by such a house. He returned in two or three days and purchased articles to the value of about one hundred and forty pounds, which, with other goods afterwards bought, and with money advanced by her, made the prisoner her debtor to the amount of two hundred and ninety-nine pounds. He bought all the articles himself, unaccompanied by his wife. In the month of April, between the 20th and 24th, the prisoner proposed paying for the different articles, and he brought his wife to the house, when a meeting took place between them and the witness, and her brother, Mr Du Hamel. He said: "I am going to London, and I should like to settle with you. This is the bill I proposed to you to take; it is accepted by Child & Co., bankers, in London"; and, turning over the bill, he added: "The endorser is as good as the acceptors."

The bill was here produced, and proved by Mrs Simeon to be the same which the prisoner gave to her in April, 1805.

The witness then took the bill, and her brother, Mr Du Hamel, paid to him, for her, thirty-five pounds, which, with the articles previously bought, made the whole of the prisoner's debt to her two hundred and ninety-nine pounds. In her presence he wrote on the bill the name of John Romney, as his name. He afterwards went to London by the mail. She sent the bill to London the next day.

The conversation which passed between her and the prisoner, in the presence of her brother and Elizabeth Barnet, was entirely in the French language. He left his wife at her house, where she slept. While he was absent the witness received intelligence from London that the bill was a forgery, and she instantly wrote a letter to the prisoner, informing him of it. He came to Bath in consequence of the letter, late on a Sunday night, and a meeting took place then at her house with him, his wife, herself, her brother, and her solicitor, Mr Luke Evill, of Bath. The conversation then passed in English. Several questions were put to the

prisoner by herself and by Mr Evill. Mr Evill asked him whether he had any business with W. A. Bailey, the endorser, which induced him to take the bill. He said Mr Bailey had sold some sugar for him. She asked him if Bailey lived in London; he replied at some inn or coffee-house, the name of which she did not recollect. He was then asked in what island or islands Mr Bailey's property was situated. He mentioned two or three islands in the West Indies, but he did not know in which of them Mr Bailey was at that time. The prisoner then inquired where the bill was. Being informed by the witness that it was in London, he said she must write to get it sent back. She, however, declared that such an application would be unavailing, and the prisoner pressed her to go to London herself. She refused to go alone, and he entreated Mr Evill to accompany her, saying that he would give Mr Evill twenty pounds to defray the expenses of the journey, which he accordingly did. She set out at ten o'clock that night, accompanied by Mr Evill, and obtained the bill from Messrs Sloper & Allen, in whose custody it was, by paying three hundred guineas, which was all the money she then had at her bankers'. She brought the bill back to Bath, having stopped but one day in London; but the prisoner was not at Bath when she returned. He had left some property at her house with his wife, who had removed from Sidney House, with his clothes, etc. The bill remained after this in her custody about a twelvemonth, and was given up to Mr Evill by her brother. Mr Dorant paid the whole of the debt due by the prisoner on the 6th of May, 1805, a few days after the prisoner finally left Bath.

Upon the cross-examination of Mrs Simeon, it appeared that she considered the prisoner and Elizabeth Barnet as man and wife. It was not until May, 1806, that she appeared before the Mayor of Bath against the prisoner, whom she knew to have been in the Fleet Prison. She did not go before the magistrate at the solicitation of Mr Dorant, nor did she at any time, nor on any account, receive any money from Dorant, but what was actually and fairly due to her by the prisoner.

Mr Du Hamel, brother of Mrs Simeon, corroborated all the principal facts stated by his sister.

Mr Whelan deposed that he was a clerk in the house of Messrs Child & Co. He had filled that situation for about nine years, and, from his knowledge of the business, was enabled to state their manner of accepting bills. The house had no correspondence whatever at Grenada by the name of Willis & Co., and the acceptance which appeared on the face of the bill was not the acceptance of Messrs Child & Co.

Elizabeth Barnet was next called. She deposed that she became acquainted with the prisoner in the month of September, 1804, when at Liverpool. About a fortnight after she first saw him she began to live with him, and continued till the 6th of June, 1805; during all that period she passed under the name of Mrs Romney. She left Liverpool in the month of January, 1805, and came to London with the prisoner. They then took lodgings at Mr Dorant's hotel, in Albemarle Street. The account he gave of himself to her was that he was a West Indian planter, and that he had estates in Martinique and St Kitts. They remained between two and three months at Mr Dorant's hotel, during which time they were not visited by anybody except a Mr Hope, whom she remembered seeing with the prisoner. This Mr Hope was not represented to her as coming from Holland. She accompanied Mr Romney to Bath, and on their arrival there they lodged at the White Hart Inn for about a fortnight previous to her lodging at Madame Simeon's. Soon after their arrival at the White Hart she went along with the prisoner to Madame Simeon's to look at some laces and a black cloak. None of these articles, however, was purchased at that time by the prisoner, they being afterwards bought when she was not present. She heard the prisoner state to Madame Simeon that he would give her a bill of exchange, accepted by Child & Co. of London. She did not then see any bill in his possession, but saw him writing one three days afterwards, when he sent the witness for some red ink. Two or three days after the

prisoner gave the bill to Madame Simeon he was much disturbed, and on being asked the reason he said he would be hanged. He asked her to fetch him his writing-desk, which she did. He then took out a large parcel of papers and burned them. She had no opportunity of seeing what those papers were. She said to him: "Were the papers any harm?" He said: "Yes; and there was a paper which must not be seen." She never lived with the prisoner after the 6th of June, 1805. She, however, remembered visiting him in the Fleet Prison. She was soon afterwards arrested at Bath, at the prisoner's instance, for the sum of twenty thousand, three hundred and twenty pounds, and carried to Winchester Jail, and afterwards removed to the King's Bench. She saw the prisoner on this occasion, and again at the Old Bailey, when he was examined as a witness against her on her trial. He then charged her with having robbed him on the 11th of June, 1805, of forty guineas and a diamond ring, when he was in the Fleet Prison. This charge was totally without foundation, as was also the alleged debt of twenty thousand, three hundred and twenty pounds. She never had any transactions in her life to which such a charge could refer.

On her cross-examination she deposed that her real name was Elizabeth Barnet. She was the daughter of a farmer in Shropshire, from whom she had had a plain education. She left her father when nineteen years of age and went to Liverpool, where she lodged with a Mrs Barns. She lived in Liverpool about nine or ten months. After she had left off seeing Mr Rouvelett in the Fleet she lodged at a Mr Fox's, in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, for seven or eight weeks. She afterwards went to Berry Street.

To some additional interrogatories by Mr Burrough this witness further deposed that the prisoner Romney sued out a writ against her for twelve hundred pounds, exclusive of the sum before mentioned. This was after she had ceased to visit him in prison and had gone to reside at her father's, and it was also previous to the arrest for the twenty thousand, three hundred and twenty pounds already taken notice of.

No demand was made against her by the prisoner when she visited him in the jail.

The jury, having consulted for a few minutes, returned a verdict of guilty of forging the acceptance, and of uttering it knowing it to be forged.

The trial lasted nearly twelve hours, and the court was filled in every part. Among the audience were the first characters in the country. This notorious offender was executed at Ilchester, pursuant to his sentence, on the 3rd of September, 1806. He was dressed in a blue coat with metal buttons, striped trousers, green slippers, and a fur cap.

JOHN HOLLOWAY AND OWEN HAGGERTY

A Hundred Spectators were killed or injured in a Crush at the Execution of these Men before Newgate, 22nd of February, 1807

THE fatal accident which happened on the spot and at the moment of the execution of these men, by which more than forty people lost their lives, and many more were terribly bruised, will cause their memory, more than their crimes, to remain a dreadful warning to many generations. Their whole case, indeed, was attended with singular and awful circumstances. Even of their guilt many entertained doubts, which were not entirely removed. Their conviction rested upon the evidence of a wretch as base as themselves, who stated himself to have been their accomplice; but the public indignation against them was excited to such a pitch that it is not to be wondered at that a jury pronounced them guilty.

On the 6th of November, 1802, Mr John Cole Steele, who kept the Lavender Warehouse, in Catherine Street, Strand, was murdered, with much barbarity, on Hounslow Heath, and his pockets rifled of their contents. The murderers escaped. Though rewards were offered for their apprehension, no discovery was made. Every search had been made by the officers of the police after them.

Several loose characters were apprehended on suspicion, but discharged on examination, and all hopes had been given up of tracing the murderers, when a circumstance occurred, about four years afterwards, which led to the apprehension of John Holloway and Owen Haggerty. A man of the name of Benjamin Hanfield, who had been convicted at the Old Bailey of grand larceny, was sentenced to seven years' transportation. He was conveyed on board a hulk at Portsmouth, to await his departure for New South Wales, but being seized with a severe illness, and tortured in his mind by the recollection of the murder, about which he constantly raved, he said he wished to make a discovery before he died. A message was immediately dispatched to the police magistrates at Bow Street to communicate the circumstance, and an officer was sent to bring him before them. When he was brought on shore they were obliged to wait several days, his illness not permitting his immediate removal. On his arrival in town the magistrates sent him, in the custody of an officer, to Hounslow Heath. He there pointed out the fatal spot where the murder was perpetrated, and related all the circumstances which he alleged had attended it; and as his evidence implicated Haggerty and Holloway, measures were taken to apprehend them. Several private examinations of all the parties took place. Hanfield was admitted King's evidence, and the public once more cherished a hope that the murderers would meet with the punishment they deserved.

Monday, 9th of February, 1807, being the day appointed for the final and public examination of the reputed perpetrators of this atrocious murder, Holloway and Haggerty were brought up before Joseph Moser, Esq., the sitting magistrate at the police office, Worship Street, charged with wilfully murdering Mr J. C. Steele, on Saturday night, the 6th of November, 1802, on Hounslow Heath.

There was a great body of evidence adduced, none of which tended materially to incriminate the prisoners, except that of Hanfield, the accomplice, who, under the promise of pardon, had turned King's evidence.

The prisoners denied having any knowledge whatever of the crime laid to their charge, but heartily hoped that punishment would come to the guilty.

The magistrates, however, after maturely considering the whole of the evidence adduced, thought proper to commit the prisoners fully for trial at the next Quarter Sessions at the Old Bailey, and bound over no less than twenty-four persons to appear and give evidence on the trial.

Such was the eager curiosity of the public to know the issue of this trial, which began on the 20th of February, 1807, before Sir Simon Le Blanc, Kt., that the whole court and area of the Old Bailey was greatly crowded. When put to the bar, Holloway appeared to be about forty years of age, of great muscular strength, tall, and of savage, brutal and ferocious countenance, with large thick lips, depressed nose and high cheek-bones. Haggerty was a small man, twenty-four years of age.

The King's pardon, under the Great Seal, to Hanfield, *alias* Enfield, remitting his sentence of transportation for seven years for a larceny, which he had been convicted of, and restoring him to his competency as a witness, was read.

Benjamin Hanfield then deposed as nearly as follows :—

" I have known Haggerty eight or nine years, and Holloway six or seven. We were accustomed to meet at the Black Horse and Turk's Head public-houses, in Dyot Street. I was in their company in the month of November, 1802. Holloway, just before the murder, called me out from the Turk's Head, and asked me if I had any objection to be in a good thing. I replied I had not. He said it was a 'Low Toby,' meaning it was a footpad robbery. I asked when and where. He said he would let me know. We parted, and two days after we met again, and Saturday, the 6th of November, was appointed. I asked who was to go with us. He replied that Haggerty had agreed to make one. We all three met on the Saturday at the Black Horse, when Holloway said : 'Our business is to " sarve " a gentleman on Hounslow Heath, who, I understand, travels that road with property.' We then drank for about three or four hours,

and about the middle of the day we set off for Hounslow. We stopped at the Bell public-house and took some porter. We proceeded from thence upon the road towards Belfont, and expressed our hope that we should get a good booty. We stopped near the eleventh milestone and secreted ourselves in a clump of trees. While there the moon got up, and Holloway said we had come too soon. After loitering about a considerable time, Holloway said he heard a footstep, and we proceeded towards Belfont. We presently saw a man coming towards us, and, on approaching him, we ordered him to stop, which he immediately did. Holloway went round him and told him to deliver. He said we should have his money, and hoped we would not ill-use him. The deceased put his hand in his pocket and gave Haggerty his money. I demanded his pocket-book. He replied that he had none. Holloway insisted that he had a book, and if he did not deliver it he would knock him down. I then laid hold of his legs. Holloway stood at his head, and said if he cried out he would knock out his brains. The deceased again said he hoped we would not ill-use him. Haggerty proceeded to search him, when the deceased made some resistance, and struggled so much that we got across the road. He cried out severely; and, as a carriage was coming up, Holloway said: 'Take care; I will silence the b—r,' and immediately struck him several violent blows on the head and body. The deceased heaved a heavy groan and stretched himself out lifeless. I felt alarmed, and said: 'John, you have killed the man.' Holloway replied that it was a lie, for he was only stunned. I said I would stay no longer, and immediately set off towards London, leaving Holloway and Haggerty with the body. I came to Hounslow, and stopped at the end of the town for nearly an hour. Holloway and Haggerty then came up, and said they had done the trick, and, as a token, put the deceased's hat into my hand. The hat Holloway went down in was like a soldier's hat. I told Holloway it was a cruel piece of business, and that I was sorry I had had any hand in it. We all turned down a lane and returned to London. As we went along I

asked Holloway if he had got the pocket-book. He replied that it was no matter, for as I had refused to share the danger, I should not share the booty. We came to the Black Horse, in Dyot Street, had half-a-pint of gin, and parted. Haggerty went down in shoes, but I don't know if he came back in them. The next day I observed Holloway had a hat upon his head which was too small for him. I asked him if it was the same he had got the preceding night. He said it was. We met again on the Monday, when I told Holloway that he acted imprudently in wearing the hat, as it might lead to a discovery. He put the hat into my hand, and I observed the name of Steele in it. I repeated my fears. At night Holloway brought the hat in a handkerchief, and we went to Westminster Bridge, filled the hat with stones, and, having tied the lining over it, threw it into the Thames."

The witness, being cross-examined by counsel for the prisoners, said he had made no other minutes of the transactions he had been detailing than what his conscience took cognisance of. It was accident that led to this disclosure. He was talking with other prisoners in Newgate of particular robberies that had taken place, and the Hounslow robbery and murder being stated amongst others, he inadvertently said that there were only three persons who knew of that transaction. The remark was circulated and observed upon, and a rumour ran through the prison that he was about to turn "nose," and he was obliged to hold his tongue, lest he should be ill-used.

James Bishop, a police officer, stated that in the rear of the public office in Worship Street were some strong-rooms for the safe keeping of prisoners pending their successive examinations. In two of these rooms, adjacent to each other, and separated by a strong partition, the prisoners were separately confined, and immediately behind these rooms was a privy. In this privy he took post regularly after each successive day's examination; and as the privy went behind both rooms, he could distinctly overhear the conversation of the prisoners, as they spoke pretty audibly to each other from either side of the partition. Of this conversation

he took notes, which were afterwards copied out fairly, and proved before the magistrates, and which he, on this occasion, read as his evidence in court.

Mr Andrews, counsel for the prisoners, objected to this sort of evidence, it being impossible, he said, that the officers could overhear all that was said, and that the conversation thus mutilated might be misconstrued; besides, the minds of officers, for the sake of reward, were always prejudiced against the prisoners. His objections, however, were overruled by the Court.

These conversations ran to a very considerable length; but the material points were few. They showed, however, from the words of the prisoners' own conversation, that all they had said before the magistrates, in the denial of any acquaintance with each other, or with Hanfield, was totally false, and a mere stratagem to baffle the testimony of the latter, who they hoped had secured his own execution, by confessing his guilt, without being able to prove theirs.

The prosecution being closed, the prisoners were called to make their defence.

Haggerty protested he was completely innocent of the charge, was totally ignorant of the prosecutor Hanfield, denied ever being at Hounslow, and endeavoured to point out some inconsistencies in the evidence which had been adduced by Hanfield.

Holloway declared he was equally innocent of the charge; but admitted he had been at Hounslow more than once, might have been in the company of the prisoners Haggerty and Hanfield, but was not acquainted with either of them.

Mr Justice Le Blanc summed up the evidence in a very clear and perspicuous manner, making some very humane observations upon the nature of the testimony given by Hanfield. He admitted that such testimony should be received with caution; yet such strong collateral evidence must have its due weight and influence on their verdict.

The jury retired for about a quarter of an hour, and returned with a verdict of guilty against both the prisoners.

The recorder immediately passed sentence in the most

solemn and impressive manner, and the unhappy men were ordered for execution on the following Monday morning.

They went from the bar protesting their innocence, and apparently careless of the miserable and ignominious fate that awaited them.

Following conviction, Haggerty and Holloway conducted themselves with the most decided indifference. On Saturday, 21st of February, the cell door, No. 1, in which they were both confined, was opened about half-past two. They were each reading a Prayer Book by candle-light, as the cell was very dark. On Sunday neither of them attended the condemned sermon, as in cases of murder the offenders were deprived of benefit of clergy; neither did the bell of St Sepulchre toll during the solemnity of their execution.

During the whole of Sunday night the convicts were engaged in prayer, never slept, but broke the awful stillness of midnight by frequent protestations of reciprocal innocence. At five they were called, dressed and shaved, and about seven were brought into the press-yard. There was some difficulty in knocking off the irons of Haggerty; he voluntarily assisted, though he seemed much dejected, but by no means pusillanimous. A message was then delivered to the sheriffs, purporting that Holloway wanted to speak with them in private. This excited very sanguine expectations of confession; but the sheriffs, on their return, intimated to the gentlemen in the press-yard that Holloway wanted to address them publicly, and therefore requested they would form themselves into a circle, from the centre of which Holloway delivered, in the most solemn manner, the following energetic address: "Gentlemen, I am quite innocent of this affair. I never was with Hanfield, nor do I know the spot. I will kneel and swear it." He then knelt down, and imprecated curses on his head if he were not innocent, and exclaimed, "By God, I am innocent!"

Owen Haggerty then ascended the scaffold. His arms were pinioned, and the halter was round his neck. He wore a white cap and a light olive shag greatcoat. He looked

downwards, and was silent. After the executioner had tied the fatal noose, he brought up John Holloway, who wore a smock-frock and jacket, as it had been stated by the approver that he did at the time of the murder; he had also a white cap on, was pinioned, and had a halter round his neck. He had his hat in his hand. Mounting the scaffold, he jumped, made an awkward bow, and said: "I am innocent, innocent, by God!" He then turned round and, bowing, made use of the same expressions: "Innocent, innocent, innocent! Gentlemen, no verdict! No verdict! No verdict! Gentlemen, innocent! Innocent!" At this moment, and while in the act of saying something more, the executioner proceeded to do his office, by placing the cap over the face of Holloway; to which he, with apparent reluctance, complied, at the same time uttering some words. As soon as the rope was fixed round his neck he remained quiet. He was attended in his devotions by an assistant at the Rev. Rowland Hill's chapel.

The last that mounted the scaffold was Elizabeth Godfrey. She had been capitally convicted of the wilful murder of Richard Prince, in Marylebone parish, on the 25th of December, 1806, by giving him a mortal wound with a pocket-knife in the left eye, of which wound he languished and died. They were all launched off together, at about a quarter after eight.

The crowd which assembled to witness this execution was unparalleled, being, according to the best calculation, nearly forty thousand; and the fatal catastrophe which happened in consequence will for long cause the day to be remembered. By eight o'clock not an inch of ground was unoccupied in view of the platform. The pressure of the crowd was such that, before the malefactors appeared, numbers of persons were crying out in vain to escape from it; the attempt only tended to increase the confusion. Several females of low stature who had been so imprudent as to venture among the mob were in a dismal situation; their cries were dreadful. Some who could be no longer supported by the men were suffered to fall, and were

trampled to death. This also was the case with several men and boys. In all parts there were continued cries of "Murder! Murder!"—particularly from the females and children among the spectators, some of whom were seen expiring without the possibility of obtaining the least assistance, everyone being employed in endeavours to preserve his own life.

The most affecting scene of distress was seen at Green Arbour Lane, nearly opposite the debtors' door. The terrible occurrence which took place near this spot was attributed to the circumstance of two piemen attending there to dispose of their pies. One of them having had his basket overthrown, which stood upon a sort of stool with four legs, some of the mob, not being aware of what had happened, and at the same time being severely pressed, fell over the basket and the man at the moment he was picking it up, together with its contents. Those who once fell were never more suffered to rise, such was the violence of the mob. At this fatal place a man of the name of Herrington was thrown down, who had by the hand his youngest son, a fine boy about twelve years of age. The youth was soon trampled to death; the father recovered, though much bruised, and was amongst the wounded in St Bartholomew's Hospital. A woman who was so imprudent as to bring with her a child at the breast was one of the number killed. Whilst in the act of falling she forced the child into the arms of the man nearest to her, requesting him, for God's sake, to save its life. The man, finding it required all his exertion to preserve himself, threw the infant from him, but it was fortunately caught at a distance by another man, who, finding it difficult to ensure its safety or his own, got rid of it in a similar way. The child was again caught by a man, who contrived to struggle with it to a cart, under which he deposited it until the danger was over, and the mob had dispersed. In other parts the pressure was so great that a horrible scene of confusion ensued, and seven persons lost their lives by suffocation alone. It was shocking to behold a large body of the crowd, as one convulsive struggle for

life, fight with the most savage fury with each other; the consequence was that the weakest, particularly the women, fell a sacrifice. A cart which was overloaded with spectators broke down, and some of the persons who fell from the vehicle were trampled underfoot, and never recovered. During the hour that the malefactors hung, little assistance could be afforded to the unhappy sufferers; but after the bodies were cut down, and the gallows removed to the Old Bailey Yard, the marshals and constables cleared the street where the catastrophe occurred, and, shocking to relate, there lay nearly one hundred persons dead, or in a state of insensibility, strewed round the street! Twenty-seven dead bodies were taken to St Bartholomew's Hospital, four to St Sepulchre's Church, one to the Swan, on Snow Hill, one to a public-house opposite St Andrew's Church, Holborn; one, an apprentice, to his master's; Mr Broadwood, pianoforte maker, to Golden Square. A mother was seen carrying away the body of her dead boy; Mr Harrison, a respectable gentleman, was taken to his house at Holloway. There was a sailor-boy killed opposite Newgate, by suffocation; he carried a small bag, in which he had some bread and cheese, and was supposed to have come some distance to behold the execution. After the dead, dying and wounded were carried away, there was a cartload of shoes, hats, petticoats and other articles of wearing apparel picked up. Until four o'clock in the afternoon most of the surrounding houses had some person in a wounded state; they were afterwards taken away by their friends on shutters, or in hackney-coaches. The doors of St Bartholomew's Hospital were closed against the populace. After the bodies of the dead were stripped and washed they were ranged round a ward on the first floor, on the women's side; they were placed on the floor with sheets over them, and their clothes put as pillows under their heads; their faces were uncovered. There was a rail along the centre of the room: the persons who were admitted to see the shocking spectacle went up on one side of the rail, and returned on the other. Until two o'clock the entrances to the hospital were beset

with mothers weeping for sons, wives for their husbands and sisters for their brothers, and various individuals for their relatives and friends.

The next day (Tuesday) a coroner's inquest sat in St Bartholomew's Hospital, and other places where the bodies were, on the remains of the sufferers. Several witnesses were examined with respect to the circumstances of the accident, which examination continued till Friday, when the verdict was, "That the several persons came by their death from compression and suffocation."

JOHN MAYCOCK

Executed 23rd of March, 1807, on the Top of the New Jail, Horsemonger Lane, Southwark, for the Murder of an old lone Lady, Mrs Ann Pooley, in company with John Pope, who was admitted Evidence for the Crown

ON the 20th of March, 1807, Maycock and Pope were put upon their trial at Kingston, on a charge of committing this crime in the preceding month of August.

The case was opened by Mr Knowles, who stated that it was one of a most aggravated nature, and perpetrated in the most deliberate manner, for the sake of plunder. From the compunctions of remorse with which one of the prisoners (Pope) had been visited, he had disclosed the whole of the guilty affair; and he trusted that, in the moment of need, at another tribunal, he might find mercy.

Mrs Sarah Pooley, sister of the deceased, stated that her sister lived in Free School Street, Horsleydown, in a very retired manner, the house being almost constantly shut up, and no servant in attendance. The last time she saw the deceased was on the 26th of July, when she carried her the dividend due on her stock, which amounted to twelve pounds. This sum she paid her in six two-pound notes of the Bank of

England, all new. Having been informed of the murder, she procured a Mr Garrett to examine the house.

John Mackrill Garrett stated that on the 20th of August he searched the house, and discovered the deceased lying on her back in the kitchen; her left leg was bent under her, her clothes were all smooth, but her pockets had been turned inside out. There were a pair of scissors, a thimble and a pen-knife lying by her side. The body was in a putrid state. On making a further search he found that all the drawers and boxes had been rifled, and that the murderer or murderers had entered the house by pulling out some bricks which were under the washhouse window. A Mr Humphries and his wife also assisted him in the search.

Thomas Griffin, a corn porter, was acquainted with the prisoner Maycock; he met him about two months previous to the murder, when the prisoner said: "Tom, I'll put you into a good job." The witness asked what it was. The prisoner replied: "I know an elderly lady who lives by herself in a house which is shut up, and she is worth a deal of money; you and I, and a stout young fellow who works with Mr Burgess, will do her out of it." The prisoner did not tell the witness where the lady lived. He said his companion was formerly a bargeman at Ware. The witness refused to have any concern in the robbery, and when he heard of the murder he communicated the circumstance to his brother, who brought Mr Graham to his house (the witness being ill) to take his deposition. Previous to this communication, and subsequent to the murder, he had seen the prisoner, who told him he had plenty of money.

Aaron Graham, Esq., was examined, touching the confession of Pope respecting the murder. Mr Graham stated that Maycock was not present when Pope made the confession, and that the proclamation offering a reward for the discovery of the murderers lay on the table. Mr Graham asked Pope if he had seen it, and he replied in the affirmative: that this question was put to him in order to induce him to confess.

At this stage of the prosecution some discussion arose

respecting the acquittal of Pope, it being contended by his counsel, Mr Guerney, that he was entitled to his acquittal, and that in fact he ought not to have been put upon his trial, he having confessed under the inducement of being pardoned.

Mr Knowles, for the prosecution, contended that he ought to have been made a party with the other prisoner; but the Chief Baron ruled that Pope stood in the same situation as any other prisoner: that he had confessed under the promise of being pardoned, and that he was entitled to it. The prisoner Pope was accordingly acquitted, and the trial proceeded against Maycock.

John Pope was then called, and his evidence was to the following effect: "I am a corn porter at present, but formerly had some craft at Bishop's Stortford, on the River Ware. I had known Maycock about a year and a half before the murder. About six weeks previous, he asked me to go with him to rob an old woman, who lived in a hugger-mugger way, at a shut-up house. We had many conversations upon the subject; and it went on till Saturday, the 9th of August, when he asked me to go that evening. I agreed. We got through the loophole, or kind of cock-loft window, which joins the Bull, and is part of the deceased's house. I took some bricks out in order to get in. I then unbolted the door and let Maycock in. We went down into the cellar, where we remained till about eight o'clock, when the deceased came down. Maycock went up to the top of the stairs, and the instant she opened the door he rushed at her, threw her down, and she screamed out: 'Oh!' I then ran upstairs, and saw Maycock kneeling over her, with his hand or arm on her neck, which he held until she was quite dead. She never moved after I first saw her. Said he to me: 'She is dead.' We then went upstairs and rifled the drawers, from whence we took out gold, silver, bank-notes and halfpence to the amount of ninety pounds. We divided the booty. The notes were all two-pound notes."

The jury, after a short consideration, returned a verdict of guilty against the prisoner. The learned Chief Baron

then sentenced him to be hanged on the following Monday, and to be dissected. When sentence was passed on him he observed, on going from the dock: "Thank you for that; I'm done snug enough."

He was executed at Horsemonger Lane Jail on the 23rd of March, 1807.

END OF VOLUME IV.

INDEX

Annet, Peter—blasphemer, 3
Armstrong, Joseph—murderer, 111
Aslett, Robert—embezzler, 291
Attaway, James (and Richard Bailey)—burglars, 64
Avershaw, Lewis Jeremiah—murderer, 203

Bailey, Richard (and James Attaway)—burglars, 64
Barber, Elizabeth (*alias* Daly)—murderess, 297
Barrington, George—pickpocket, 91
Beddingfield, Ann (and Richard Ringe)—murderers, 8
Belville, John—robber, 183
Bevan, George (and Charles Hemmings)—robbers, 309
Biddle, William (and James Farr and William Sparry)—forgers, 3
Blake, Daniel—murderer, 4
Bolland, James—sheriff officer and forger, 77
Bourne, John (and Others)—prison incendiaries, 188
Bristol, Countess of (otherwise Duchess of Kingston)—bigamist, 26
Britain, Jonathan—forger, 86
Broadric, Anne—murderess, 199
Brodie, James—blind murderer, 231
Broughton, Thomas (and Others)—traitors, 259
Brownrigg, Elizabeth—murderess, 46
Burgh, Rev. Richard (and Others)—prison incendiaries, 188
Burton, Charles (and Henry Jones and Francis Phoenix)—burglars, 74

Carpenter, Richard—forger, 158
Carrol, Barney (and William King)—maimers, 23
Chalfont, Thomas—letter-thief, 244
Clarke, John—murderer, 217
Clench, Martin (and James Mackley)—murderers, 223
Cock, Henry—forger, 250
Codlin, William—ship scuttler, 252
Conway, Peter (and Michael Richardson)—murderers, 66
Cooper, John (and John Wesket)—thief and receiver, 20
Corbett, William—murderer, 18
Cox, Robert (and Michael Walker and Richard Payne)—murderers, 164
Cox, William—robber, 95
Crouch, John, and his Wife—who offered a girl for sale, 25
Cubitt, William—jewel-thief, 299
Cummings, John (and Others)—prison incendiaries, 188

Dagoe, Hannah—robber, 16
Davis, James (and Others)—prison incendiaries, 188
De la Motte, Francis Henry—spy, 153
Denton, Thomas—coiner, 170
Despard, Colonel Edward Marcus (and Others)—traitors, 259
Dignum, David Brown—swindler, 112
Dodd, Dr William—forger, 114
Donally, James—blackmailer and highwayman, 136
Donellan, John—murderer, 148

Durnford, A. (and W. Newton)—robbers, 143
Dyer, John—schoolboy forger, 177

Elliot, James—forger, 126
Elliot, John—hunger-striker, 165
Elliot, Robert (and George Roach and Jonas Parker)—coffin-thieves, 128
Eyre, John—thief, 70

Farr, James (and William Sparry and William Biddle)—forgers, 3
Ferguson, Richard—highwayman, 232
Field, William (*alias* Green)—highwayman, 93
Foster, George—murderer, 257
Francis, John (and Others)—traitors, 259
Fryer, James (and Thomas Horner)—burglars, 132

Gibson, James—forger, 58
Goodiff, Henry—boy-thief, 198
Gordon, Lord George—author of anti-Catholic riots, 144
Gordon, Thomas—murderer, 173
Graham, Arthur (and Others)—traitors, 259
Greeve, Elizabeth Harriet—swindler, 97
Griffiths, William—highwayman, 89
Guest, William—coin-filer, 50

Hackman, Rev. James—murderer, 139
Hadfield, James—who shot at George III., 242
Haggerty, Owen (and John Holloway)—murderers, 318
Harrison, John—forger, 119
Harrow, William—highwayman, 6
Hatfield, John—impostor and forger, 277
Haywood, Richard—robber, 294
Heald, Joseph (and John Terry)—murderers, 267
Hemmings, Charles (and George Bevan)—robbers, 309
Hill, James—incendiary, 108
Hinchcliffe, Samuel—swindler, 175
Hodges, Joseph (and Richard Probin)—confidence tricksters, 218
Holloway, John (and Owen Haggerty)—murderers, 318
Holmes, John (and Peter Williams)—body-snatchers, 125
Horner, Thomas (and James Fryer)—burglars, 132
Howard, Rebecca—murderess, 225
Hughes, Margaret—murderess, 230
Hurle, Ann—forger, 288

Jackson, Rev. Mr—traitor, 192
Jobbins, William (and Edward Lowe)—incendiaries, 178
Jones, Henry (and Francis Phoenix and Charles Burton)—burglars, 74
Jones, Laurence—swindler, 195

King, William (and Barney Carrol)—maimers, 23

Lazarus, Jacob (and Others)—robbers and murderers, 71
Lee, William—burglar, 211
Le Maitre, Peter—museum thief, 107
Lewis, Francis (otherwise Grimison)—burglar, 133
Lewis, Paul—highwayman, 14
Lloyd, Sarah—thief, 237
Lorrison, Joseph—highway robber, 187
Lowe, Edward (and William Jobbins)—incendiaries, 178

M'Can, Townley (and Others)—prison incendiaries, 188
M'Cloud, Peter—boy-housebreaker, 68
M'Kean, James—murderer, 222

Mackley, James (and Martin Clench)—murderers, 223
Macnamara, Captain—duellist, 270
Macnamara, John (and Others)—traitors, 259
Marrow, Ann—who married three women, 113
Marsh, Elizabeth—girl-murderess, 197
Mathison, James—bank-note forger, 141
Maycock, John—murderer, 328
Mercier, Francis (*alias* Louis de Butte)—murderers, 123
Merritt, Amos—burglar, 102
Metyard, Sarah (and her Daughter)—murderesses, 59

Newton, W. (and A. Durnford)—robbers, 143
Nutts, Robert (and James Riley)—highwaymen, 245

Orton, Samuel—forger, 41

Parker, Jonas (and George Roach and Robert Elliot)—coffin-thieves, 128
Parker, Richard—mutineer, 207
Patch, Richard—murderer, 307
Payne, Richard (and Michael Walker and Robert Cox)—murderers, 164
Perfect, Henry—begging-letter swindler, 296
Perreau, Daniel and Robert—forgers, 104
Phipoe, Maria Theresa—murderess, 225
Phipps, Thomas (and his Son)—forgers, 174
Phoenix, Francis (and Henry Jones and Charles Burton)—burglars, 74
Picton, Thomas—unlawful torturer, 300
Plackett, John—robber, 1
Porter, Solomon (and Others)—robbers and murderers, 71
Price, Charles—swindler and forger, 159
Probin, Richard (and Joseph Hodges)—confidence-tricksters, 218

Quailn, Bartholomew—murderer, 184

Rann, John—highwayman, 99
Reading, Lambert—burglar, 103
Rice, John—forger, 11
Richardson, Elizabeth—murderess, 63
Richardson, Michael (and Peter Conway)—murderers, 66
Riley, James (and Robert Nutts)—highwaymen, 245
Ringe, Richard (and Ann Beddingfield)—murderers, 8
Roach, George (and Robert Elliot and Jonas Parker)—coffin-thieves, 128
Rouvelett, John Docke (*alias* Romney)—forger, 310
Ryland, William Wynne—forger, 156

Sampson, James—robber and incendiary, 51
Scoldwell, Charles—sheriff officer and thief, 214
Scott, Alexander—practical joker, 130
Smith, Francis—murderer of a supposed ghost, 283
Smith, Robert—highwayman, 275
Sparry, William (and James Farr and William Biddle)—forgers, 3
Stanley, Sarah Penelope—female trooper and thief, 221
Sterne, Henry—thief, 168

Terry, John (and Joseph Heald)—murderers, 267

Troyt, Robert Ladbroke—boy-forger, 228
Turnbull, James—coin thief, 229

Underwood, Thomas (and Joseph Wood)—boy-robbers, 187

Wake, Kid—assailant of George III., 206
Walker, Michael (and Richard Payne and Robert Cox)—murderers, 164
Wall, Joseph—cruel governor, 246
Watkins, Thomas—murderer, 17
Weil, Dr Levi (and Asher Weil and Others)—robbers and murderers, 71
Wesket, John (and John Cooper)—thief and receiver, 20
Weston, Henry—forger, 212
Wilkes, John, M.P.—author of seditious pamphlets, 54
Williams, Peter (and John Holmes)—body-snatchers, 125
Williams, Renwick—dress slasher, 180
Williamson, John—murderer, 44
Wood, John (and Others)—traitors, 259
Wood, Joseph (and Thomas Underwood)—boy-robbers, 187
Wratton, James Sedgwick (and Others)—traitors, 259

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